

NEWSBERG



Corinne Tate sits on a bench outside of her bioswale gardens on Villa Rd. in Newberg, Ore. on July 10, 2026. (Branden Andersen / Newsberg)

The Umbrella Garden Of Villa Road

Corinne Tate didn't ask permission to beautify an engineered spillway on Villa Rd. Four years later, the garden has become a neighborhood landmark.

By Branden Andersen
Founding Editor

NEWBERG, Ore. — Along Villa Road, in a stretch of city-engineered bioswale that once collected little besides clay and yellow grass, Corinne Tate has spent the past four years building something else entirely: a garden the whole neighborhood has claimed as its own.

Tate and her husband, Tom, moved into a standalone home owned by Friendsview, the Newberg retirement community, in 2022, after decades away from the area where Tate grew up on Chehalem Mountain. The home sat along a series of check dams — concrete-walled basins built to catch stormwater runoff — that Tate said were originally landscaped with dozens of varieties of trees and shrubs when Villa Road was rebuilt years earlier, based on renderings she found while researching the property before moving in.

“It started there, but it wasn’t kept watered, so they all died,” Tate said. “Except for there’s a cedar tree out here that I think was probably part of the planting. That’s the only thing that was there when we moved in.”

What remained, she said, was dry grass and weeds — a contrast to the landscaped grounds at George Fox University and the Chehalem Aquatic Center nearby.

“It could be, it really could be beautiful if somebody would do something,” Tate said. “I always thought, well, somebody will do it. Well, nobody will do it unless someone does it. So I thought, OK, I’m the someone.”

Started Without Asking

Tate began in 2022 with two beds flanking her driveway, intending to stop there. The rest, she said, she planned to leave to the city. But Newberg’s maintenance crews,

short-staffed at the time, had already stopped tending the check dams along the road.

“They said, ‘You know, we are’ — I think at the time they said we’re five men short in the maintenance department,” Tate said. “They just couldn’t get employees, and so they had to let something go. That’s what they were letting go, was the maintaining of the drainage things.”

Tate said she never formally requested permission from the city before expanding the project, which now covers a series of beds running much of the length of her property along Villa Road. She finished the last of them, on the north side, in 2025.

“I really didn’t officially ask for permission,” Tate said. “I just started doing it.”

The beds sit in gravel drainage basins rather than soil, she said, meaning every plant requires a hand-dug hole amended with new soil before planting. A church friend donated hazelnut shells from their farm to help with ground cover, according to Friendsview.

Tate said the largest expense of the project was running water lines to the beds for a drip irrigation system — an investment she made after a first summer spent hand-watering for hours a day.

Every plant, she said, has to clear three requirements: deer resistance, drought tolerance and pollinator friendliness. She said there are deer that live in the Hess Creek bed area below the trestle. She tries to curb their appetites with a deer block and a daily apple, which does help. But, deer are always going to play by their own rules, she said.



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Sander Estate Park Cuts Ribbon in Dundee

Phase 1 of the Sander Estate Park is officially open, featuring an open lawn, walkways, a conifer feature, and a splash pad.

By Branden Andersen
Founding Editor

DUNDEE, Ore. — Chehalem Parks and Recreation District (CPRD) cut the ribbon on its newest park, debuting Dundee’s Sander Estate Park on Wednesday, July 8, 2026. The park, located on SW 5th Street across the street from Dundee’s Billick Park, drew more than 100 attendees on a clear summer day. CPRD, city, county, and state officials spoke about the importance of parks and about the late Jan Sander, who died in January 2026.

The program opened with CPRD Superintendent Clay Downing, followed by CPRD Board President Jim McMaster, who spoke about the process and path to develop the park. U.S. Rep. Andrea Salinas spoke next, followed by Gustavo Guerrero, a field representative for Sen. Jeff Merkley. Outgoing Yamhill County Commissioner Mary Starrett and Dundee Mayor David Ford also spoke, followed by longtime Sander family friend John Kester.

After the speakers shared their remarks, officials and community members gathered behind a golden ribbon, which McMaster cut following a countdown. Attendees then signed a commemorative poster, explored the park, and cooled off in the splash pad.

“For the Citizens of Dundee”

CPRD broke ground on the Sander Estate on Aug. 13, 2025, starting the transformation of the 6.7-acre grassed property into a park featuring an open lawn, a public restroom, a conifer feature, and a water splash pad. Phase two planning includes a reception hall, plaza, and water feature.

Dundee resident Janis “Jan” Sander first approached the district in 2008 about donating the land, according to CPRD Board President Jim McMaster.



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Sander Estate Park officially opened on July 8, 2026 in Dundee, Oregon as CPRD Board President Jim McMaster (center) cuts the golden ribbon. (Branden Andersen / Newsberg)

COMMUNITY NEWS

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Support

Intersection of
N Main Street
and E Illinois
St Reopened
after 10 Month
Closure

*Newberg City Council de-
termined the closure did not
meaningfully improve traffic
through the intersection and
will explore alternatives for
the future*

By Branden Andersen
Founding Editor

NEWBERG, Ore. — The intersec-
tion of North Main Street and East
Illinois Street reopened to vehicle
traffic Tuesday after the Newberg
City Council voted to end a trial
closure that had been in place since
September 2025.

City of Newberg Public Works
staff removed the traffic bollards
that closed the intersection to ve-
hicles on July 7. Reader boards and
dead-end signage installed during
the closure period will also come
down, and navigation apps includ-
ing Google Maps, Waze, and Apple
Maps will be updated to reflect the
change, though the city said up-
dates to those third-party services
may take time to appear.

The intersection, where North
Main Street, East Illinois Street
and West Illinois Street/Highway
240 converge, has drawn commu-
nity complaints over traffic flow for
years. Highway 240, maintained by

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the Oregon Department of Trans-
portation, creates a near-blind cor-
ner where vehicles merge onto Main
Street, contributing to multiple
near-miss incidents over the years,
according to the city.

Concerns about the intersection
date back to at least 2023, and the
city considered a full traffic engi-
neering study before opting instead
for the trial closure. City Manager
Will Worthey said last year that
widening the intersection would
have required purchasing and de-
molishing at least two nearby
homes, at an estimated cost of \$1.1
million, and that a traffic light or
roundabout would have required a
lengthy coordination process with
ODOT.

“The intersection should have
never been built like this,” Worthey
said in August 2025, when the clo-
sure was first announced. “There is
just not enough space for this many
roadways to connect, especially
coming off a highway.”

A city-run open house in January

2025 found 78% of survey respon-
dents favored closing the intersec-
tion, and the Newberg City Coun-
cil approved the closure on April 7,
2025. The trial closure took effect
Sept. 15, 2025, cutting through
access to E Illinois Street from N
Main Street.

According to the July 7 news
release, the city opted for the low-
er-cost trial closure rather than
commit nearly \$250,000 to a full
traffic engineering study. After re-
viewing feedback collected during
the roughly 10-month trial period,
the council determined the closure
had not led to a significant improve-
ment in the overall traffic situation
and voted to reopen the intersection
to vehicle traffic.

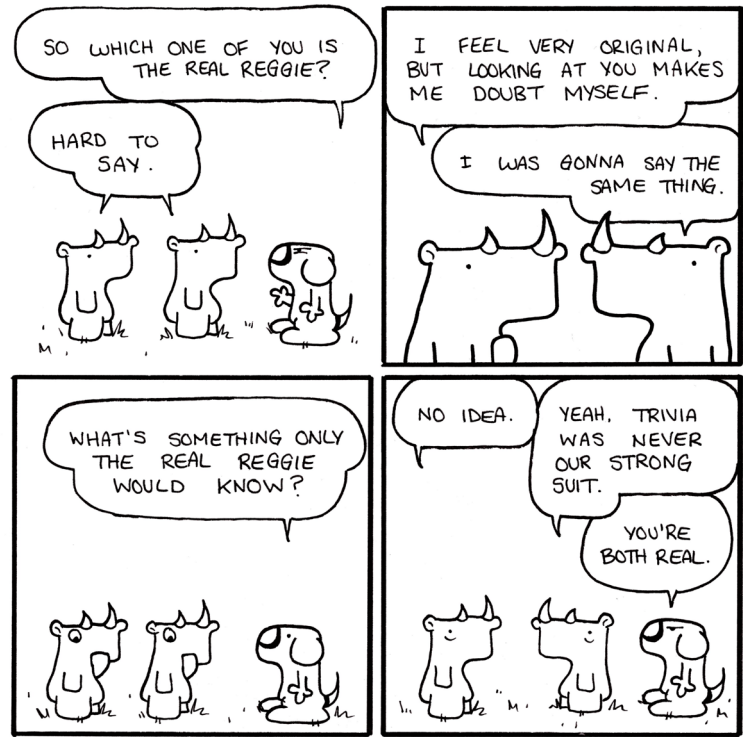
The council has directed the city’s
Traffic Safety Commission to ex-
plore other traffic calming measures
for the intersection.



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Melon Collie Ep. 96

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UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

JULY 14
6:30 p.m. — Tunes on
Tuesday: Ben Rice & The PDX
Hustle
Chehalem Cultural Center, 415
E Sheridan Street

JULY 15
4 p.m. — Newberg
Wednesday Market
Downtown Newberg, 711 E 2nd
Street

JULY 16
10 a.m. — Exploring Inks:
Alcohol, Acrylic, and
Homemade Inks
Chehalem Cultural Center, 415
E Sheridan St.

5 p.m. — Third Thursday
Downtown Dundee

JULY 17
4 p.m. — The Wine Bar
Tasting: Bellinger Estates
Fairfield by Marriott, 900 E
Brutscher Street

6 p.m. — Community Night
Wayward Winds Lavender,
17005 NE Courtney Rd.

JULY 18
8 a.m. — Coffee w/the Mayor
Red Hills Market, 155 SW 7th St,
Dundee

9 a.m. — Boquet Workshop
at the Farm
Big Oak Flower Farm, 7778
Champoege Road Northeast,
St. Paul

1 p.m. — July Mixology
Class
Duck Pond Cellars, 23145
OR99W, Dundee

6 p.m. — Live Music: Gabe
Ballard
Encore 77 Taphouse, 4205 E
Crestview Dr., Suite 127

6 p.m. — Weekly Board
Game Night
Barley & Vine Tavern, 408 E
1st Street

JULY 19
10 a.m. — Yoga in the
Garden
The Allison Inn & Spa, 2525
NE Allison Ln

10:30 a.m. — Vines &
Vinyasa: Summer Terrace
Yoga
Knudsen Vineyards, 9419 NE
Worden Hill Rd, Dundee



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events.