

CITY OF HILLSBORO

A link to the past

1843

David Hill's prominent role in the 1843 Oregon Provisional Government leads to the choice of his home in Columbia as the seat of Tuality District, bounded by the Pacific Ocean, the Willamette River, and the straits of Juan de Fuca. Columbia is renamed Hillsborough (later shortened to Hillsboro) in his honor after his death in 1850.

1859

Oregon becomes the 33rd state.

1872

Ben Holladay's Willamette Valley Railroad reaches Hillsborough. When rebuffed by city fathers after requesting free land near the courthouse, Holladay relocates the rail line five blocks to the south, near Mirror Lake (now Jackson Bottom).

1876

Hillsborough receives its city charter from the State legislature. The centerpiece of the new city's downtown is the two story, three-year-old brick courthouse.



Sixteen years later in 1892, pioneer nurseryman John Porter plants the landmark sequoias on the south side of the building.

1898

The *Hillsboro Argus*, Hillsboro's third newspaper, is first published. The *Argus* eventually merges with the *Hillsboro Independent* in 1932 and becomes the town's sole newspaper under the leadership of Emma McKinney and her son W. Verne McKinney.

1905

The first bridge is built across Jackson Bottom. The stench from an old open sewer pipe in that vicinity is so bad that a farmer nearby complains he would not even run his pigs there.



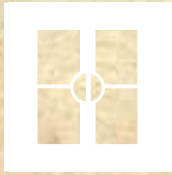
Shute Park

1906

Sewell's Grove southeast of downtown is sold to the city by John Shute for use as the city's first park. Banker Shute offers the city a lower price if the park is named after him, and Shute Park was created.

1907

The Oregon Condensed Milk Co. building on Southwest First Avenue is purchased by Pacific Coast Condensed Milk Co. Pacific Coast later becomes Carnation, and the condenser plant in Hillsboro eventually becomes a pet food factory.



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1908

Oregon Electric Railway (OER) trains begin running from Hillsboro to Portland. The downtown station is at Second and Washington, one block from the Hatfield Station terminus of Westside MAX (which runs on the OER alignment). Southern Pacific brings a second electric railway to downtown Hillsboro in 1912.



Oregon Electric Railway

1911

The first sanitary sewer district is created to replace septic tanks in the downtown. Effluent is conveyed, in clay pipes with mortar joints, to a large septic tank, then discharged into the Tualatin River. Twenty-five years later the city's first sewer treatment plant will open south of downtown, funded by a federal grant and loan during the Great Depression.

1912

Oregon Governor Oswald West issues a proclamation granting women voting rights in state and local elections. In a city election a few days after the proclamation, Miss Rose Cave becomes the first woman in Hillsboro and Washington County to cast a ballot.

1913

Weil's Department Store opens, replacing the Tualatin Hotel at the center of the block on Main Street between Second and Third avenues. A grand fashion show complete with live orchestra draws an estimated 900 people in March 1922.



Weil's Department Store

1914

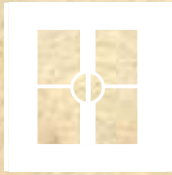
The city's new library opens at Second and Lincoln, funded by a foundation established by Scottish steel magnate Andrew Carnegie. The property for the library is donated by Dr. Samuel Linklater, whose widow later builds the Linklater Estate next door.

1918

Minnie Jones Coy opens a hospital at Second and Oak. Seven years later the hospital relocates to Seventh and Baseline. Ms. Coy later builds a new, larger hospital across the street in 1940 at a cost of \$23,000. Two years after her death in 1952, the structure becomes the new Tuality Community Hospital.

1920

The Ray-Maling Cannery is constructed on the site of the present Washington County Jail. As downtown Hillsboro's largest employer for many years, it is purchased by Birdseye in 1943 and closes in 1975. Some reports indicate that the flash freezing process for vegetables was invented at this facility.



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1922

The Oregon Commercial Club, to better define its purpose and to identify with similar organizations nationwide, renames itself as the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce.

1925

After moving throughout Washington County for decades, the



Washington County Fair finds a new home at Shute Park. The only permanent structure at the fair is the Shute Park pavilion, built in 1921. The hardwood floor in the pavilion serves as a roller skating rink when the fair is not in season.

1929

The original Venetian Theatre shows the first “talkie” ever in Hillsboro. “Broadway Melody” draws an audience of over 1,000: the *Argus* reports “several hundreds were turned away.” Downtown businesses stay open late to entice out-of-town moviegoers.

1938

The remaining residents of Orenco, the company town of the Oregon Nursery Company, vote to dissolve their municipal corporation after the bankruptcy of the nursery company during the Great Depression and the subsequent departure of most of the community’s businesses and residents.

1947

One of the largest and oldest businesses in downtown Hillsboro, the Imperial Feed Mill, is destroyed by fire. The loss of three grain warehouses, the grain elevator and the offices totaled over \$300,000 in damage. The mill is such an important asset to local farmers it is rebuilt in 1949.

1948

The congregation of Trinity Lutheran lays the foundation for their new church at the corner of Fifth and Main. The church began in Hillsboro in 1917, and Sunday services were held in German until 1933. Through a generous donation from Glenn and Viola Walters, the city purchased the property from the Lutherans in 2000, renovated it and reopened the facility as an arts center in 2004.

1950

KUIK Radio, Washington County’s only exclusive radio station, begins broadcasting from its station in Jackson Bottom south of downtown Hillsboro.



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1953

Financed by a \$90,000 bond three years earlier, Hillsboro's first municipal swimming pool opens across Maple Street from Shute Park. The outdoor pool is such a success that voters later approve an additional \$28,150 levy to create a city parks and recreation department.



Property of Washington County Museum

1956

Orange Phelps's Venetian Theatre, built in 1925, is gutted by fire, collapsing the roof. Phelps rebuilds the theatre but renames it the Town. The original name, and the theatre's prominence in downtown, is restored in 2008.

1962

Funded by a National Institute of Health grant of \$1.9 million to the Medical Research Foundation of Oregon, the first of its kind Oregon Primate Research Center is dedicated on its site on 185th Avenue east of Hillsboro.

1965

Ownership of the Hillsboro Municipal Airport is transferred to the Port of Portland. The city had purchased the airport in 1938 for \$7,500, but costs of operations and maintenance exceeded expectations.

1966

Construction finally begins on Scoggins Dam after almost 30 years of local, state and federal efforts. The water in Henry Hagg Lake behind the dam will serve multiple purposes: irrigation; recreation; supplemental municipal water; and improved water quality. Construction will be completed in 1975.

1969

Senator Mark Hatfield speaks at the dedication and opening ceremony for the Oregon Graduate Institute (OGI) on 185th Avenue east of the city. OGI was the only private institution in Oregon offering both masters and doctoral degrees in the physical sciences.

1973

The City accepts the deeds to the IOOF and Masons portions of the Pioneer Cemetery from the Hillsboro Cemetery Endowment Fund Association and takes over its management. The Association had formed in 1952 to maintain the badly neglected site.

1975

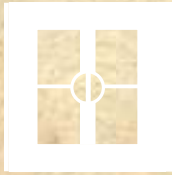
Hillsboro receives a \$142,000 community development block grant (CDBG) for purchase of a building for the two-year old Senior Center. The site at Eighth and Washington is a former church. A larger Senior Center, also financed in part by CDBG funds, was built in 1990 next to Shute Park.

1979

Intel opens its first Hillsboro campus at Hawthorne Farm. The Hawthorne Farm campus is a research and development facility unlike the Aloha fabrication facility, which opened three years earlier.

1984

After six years of effort, the city's Comprehensive Plan receives acknowledgement from the Land Conservation and Development Commission. The new Plan places land use designations on the undeveloped and unincorporated area between the city and Cornelius Pass Road, including the abandoned 300-acre Ronler Acres subdivision.



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1989

Sunset Esplanade Shopping Center opens on Tualatin Valley Highway on the site of the Beglinger Farm.

1996

The flood of 1996 required City Council to declare a

state of emergency in

Hillsboro by resolution.

The flood caused closures of

Highway 219, TV Highway

at Dairy Creek and multiple neighborhoods.



Photo provided by the City of Hillsboro

1997

The first phase of Orenco Station opens. Orenco Station is a new mixed-use neighborhood on the southern portion of the former Ronler Acres subdivision. The northern portion of Ronler Acres, after purchase and consolidation by the city through urban renewal, had been purchased by Intel in 1994.

1998

Former Mayor Shirley Huffman is instrumental in extending light rail to downtown Hillsboro. The Hillsboro Central Station (Washington Street between Third and Fourth avenues) sits on the same site as the station for the old Oregon Electric Railway.

2000

After a three-year visioning process that began by asking Hillsboro residents “What do you want Hillsboro to look like in the year 2020?”, the City Council adopts the Hillsboro 2020 Vision and Action Plan, Hillsboro’s 20-year community plan, by resolution in May.

2004

The Streets at Tanasbourne, a 419,194 square foot “lifestyle center” outdoor mall anchored by Macy’s and REI, opens in northeast Hillsboro.

2005

The Civic Center is built becoming the second Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold rated municipal building in the U.S. It is designed as a mixed-use project guided by principles set forth from the community through an extensive citizen involvement process resulting from the City Council’s adoption of the Hillsboro 2020 Vision and Action Plan. A day long community celebration was held.



*Hillsboro Civic Center
Photographer David Brunn*

2009

The first electric vehicle charging station is installed on Main Street in front of the Tom Hughes Civic Center Plaza. As part of the city’s commitment to sustainability, this was the first of many charging stations to be installed within the city.