

Wood Village swears in new city councilor

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Wood Village City Council on Tuesday, July 26, swore in Trenton Scott Harden to fill a vacant seat on the council.

Harden will take over council position 3, which has been vacant since Councilor Dave Fuller, who previously served as mayor for 10 years, resigned in April. Harden, one of two applicants for the seat, was selected by the City Council on June 28.

Mayor Patricia Smith said it was a difficult decision as both applicants for the council seat were very qualified.

"I think he'll do a fine job," she said about Harden, noting that he and his wife, Charlotte, are very active in the community.

Harden said he hopes to "hit the ground running" in serving Wood Village's 3,878 residents. He said his fellow city officials have set a high bar for public service; in particular he was impressed by the city's fiscal responsibility and award-winning financial reports.

"I'm honored they think I can live up to that level of service," he said.

Harden, 44, has resided in Wood Village since 2005. He works as a buyer for All Sports, a distributor of sporting goods, in Clackamas. He serves on the city Planning Commission and has volunteered at the Easter egg hunts and at Oktoberfest.

Harden said he's interested in development that is environmentally responsible but also attracts jobs to the area. Harden, who moved from southwest Washington to Oregon 11 years ago to be closer to his job, said he was at a Metro Regional Government candidates forum and one of the candidates described East County as a net exporter of people who commute elsewhere for work.

"I would like to see job growth in East County where people can work close to home," he said. "With its urban renewal district and enterprise zone, Wood Village definitely has the land and opportunity to attract business."

Harden said he's also interested in protecting the level of service that the city provides to residents.

Harden went to high school in Ridgefield, Wash., and earned both his bachelor's degree in business administration and his master's degree in management and organizational leadership from Warner Pacific College in Portland.

Harden serves on the board of directors for the Northwest Sport Fishing Industry Association and as a precinct committee person for the Democratic Party in the 49th District. In addition, he has volunteered with the Letter Carriers Food Drive for two years and was the volunteer co-captain at the Gresham post office for last year's drive.

He said he hopes residents get involved in providing input to the city council and the planning commission, which has a vacancy.