



Local Focus

The Magazine of the League of Oregon Cities

Q4 2022

2023 Legislative Priorities

How they impact
communities statewide

A photograph of the Oregon State Capitol building in Salem, Oregon, featuring the golden statue of Oregon on top of the dome. The building is surrounded by green trees and other city buildings under a clear blue sky.

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President's Regional Meetings
LOC Annual Conference Recap
CIS Safety Awards



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Local Focus



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Collaborating for Common Outcomes

With the conclusion of the most recent election cycle, and the 2023 legislative session fast approaching, it's unbelievably easy to think our differences outweigh our commonalities. But, for me, the last 10 months has provided a front row seat to the shared concerns of cities from all across Oregon. I've been granted the gift of getting an in-depth look at how passionately local government officials—from cities of all sizes and political persuasions—lean into finding common ground.

In early 2022, LOC staff convened eight policy committees to discuss and identify the challenges facing cities. In looking at rosters of these committees, it may be hard to imagine what the cities of Burns and Garibaldi have in common, or the similarities between Echo and Springfield. But if you were a fly on the wall during the committee meetings, it quickly became apparent that cities of all sizes face similar issues. And while facing similar issues may not be newsworthy, setting aside perceived differences, focusing on a singular goal, and working together to develop consensus-driven solutions in the age of divisive politics is worthy of reporting. After months of meetings and debates, the LOC's eight policy committees developed cohesive priorities that were all based in a foundation of common ground.

And while the work of the LOC's eight policy committees is no small feat, what has been the most inspiring these last few months is watching the work of the OMA Homelessness Taskforce. The Taskforce brought together 25 mayors from across the state to develop a response to homelessness that would help all communities statewide, regardless of size or location, to address the issue. Over the summer and early fall, the taskforce met regularly to develop its homelessness plan, which was finalized and unanimously approved on October 14.

The OMA Homelessness Taskforce's plan to humanely and timely address the homelessness crisis in Oregon involves a partnership between the state of Oregon and its 241 cities. This partnership will allow for the establishment and expansion of local, community-based responses that provide immediate shelter, needed services, and secure safety for unhoused Oregonians. During the 2023 legislative session, the OMA will propose two separate, yet parallel, budget proposals:

- An approximate \$125 million budget package which provides direct allocation to cities for homelessness response and prevention services; and
- A separate \$100+ million budget package that provides capital improvement funding for cities.

Since formalizing its proposal, taskforce mayors have been working with their colleagues from across the state to garner support. As I'm writing this column, 91 cities have provided their affirmative support for the proposal. Think about that. Ninety-one cities in Oregon have come together to support one proposal—to stand

in solidarity and unity. These 91 cities did not argue with one another, did not focus on their differences, and did not quibble over who may or may not get more of the same pie; rather, they worked together, they collaborated with one another, and they found common ground.

The 2023 legislative session will no doubt be like every other legislative session—there will be highs and lows, periods of profound stress, successes, and disappointments. If I'm not careful, I'll work through session and finish it focusing on all the things that went wrong or remember only those areas of discord and difference. I'm challenging myself to remember my front row seat to collaboration; to keep at the forefront the constant striving for collaboration that occurred during LOC policy committee meetings and within the OMA Homelessness Taskforce. ■



Patty Mulvihill
Interim Executive Director

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2023 LOC Board Elected

The LOC membership selected its 2023 board of directors October 7 during its 97th Annual Conference and Business Meeting, which was held at the Riverhouse on the Deschutes.

The following are the city officials that were named to the LOC's governing board for the calendar year 2023. Officials new to the board appear in bold text.

- President:** Steve Callaway, Mayor, Hillsboro
Vice President: Dave Drotzmann, Mayor, Hermiston
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- Directors:** Robert Cowie, Councilor, Chiloquin
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Beach Pace, Councilor, Hillsboro
Carmen Rubio, Commissioner, Portland
John Walsh, City Administrator, St. Helens
Kenna West, City Manager, Independence

LOC Board of Directors Meets in Bend

The LOC Board of Directors met in Bend on October 4 and took the following actions:

- Heard an update from Strategic Government Resources on the process of interviewing and hiring the LOC's new executive director;
- Consented to provide amicus support on behalf of municipal lawyers seeking clarification from the *Blake v Grants Pass* ruling regarding regulation of public spaces in relation to homeless populations;
- Approved minor edits to the format of LOC's Equity Lens; and
- Discussed timing and location of future LOC Annual Conferences.

The next LOC Board meeting will be December 9 in Salem.

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** 2017 IPSOS Survey of HomeServe policyholders and non-policyholders

President's Regional Roundtables



Join Us for 2023 President's Regional Meetings

The LOC is inviting all cities, regardless of population, to attend a President's Regional Meeting during a regular Small Cities Meeting in the first or second quarter of 2023.

LOC President and Hillsboro Mayor Steve Callaway, along with the LOC's new executive director, will attend each meeting and give regional updates on LOC's 2023-2028 Strategic Plan.

Please see the [Small Cities Webpage](#) for information and meeting dates by region.

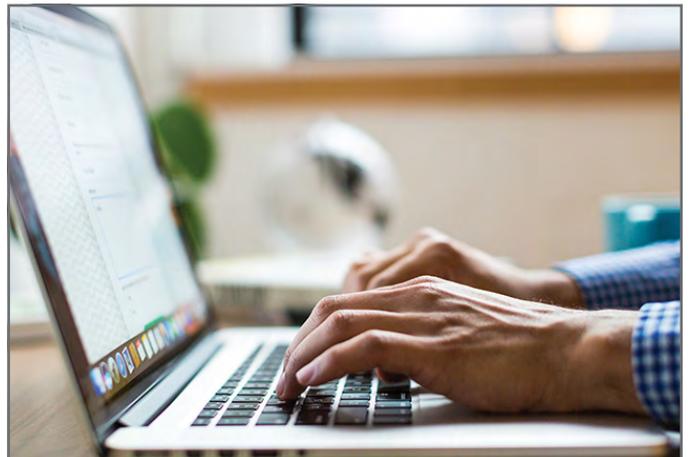
About the Small Cities Program

Held quarterly in 12 regions across the state, the LOC's Small Cities program provides leaders from cities with a population less than 7,500 with an opportunity to meet, network and discuss issues or solutions that are most relevant to small cities in their area.

Contact: Traci Nichols, Administrative Assistant, Events – tnichols@orcities.org

Membership Drives will Begin in Mid-December

Membership drives for the Oregon Mayors Association, the Oregon City/County Management Association, the Oregon City Attorneys Association, and the Oregon City Planning Directors Association will begin in mid-December. Be on the lookout for an email from LOC staff on how to renew and/or sign-up. Regular reminders will also be included in the weekly *LOC Bulletin*.



NEW! On-Demand LOC Training Now Available

The LOC is excited to announce the creation of a library of on-demand trainings for city officials. Couldn't attend an LOC training? Now you can watch them on-demand at your convenience! Our growing on-demand library currently has three trainings available: City Planning in Oregon; Grant Writing Basics; and Oregon Public Contracting Basics. For more information or to purchase these on-demand training videos, visit our webpage: www.orcities.org

Topics A-Z



Municipal Information at Your Fingertips

Easy to navigate and searchable, **Topics A-Z** is an online collection of information categorized into fundamental city governance topics. Find resources, publications, samples and links to information on a range of topics from animal regulations to youth engagement. Check it out: www.orcities.org/resources/reference/topics-z.

Register Now for Elected Essentials and Mayors Workshops

Are you new to city government? Are you looking for a refresher on government fundamentals? Elected Essentials is for you!

LOC is thrilled to offer our signature Elected Essentials training in person again this winter. The LOC's Elected Essentials program provides newly elected officials, experienced elected officials, and city staff with free training on the basics of municipal governance in Oregon.

Topics include:

- **How to Achieve a High Functioning City Council.** Attendees will learn the healthy habits of highly functioning city councils, including: the roles, responsibilities, and authorities of

various city officials; the difference between a group and a team; and, important communication techniques.

- **What City Officials Need to Know About Oregon's Public Records Law.** Attendees will learn what is considered and is not considered a public record, gain an understanding of the state's retention schedule, and develop an appreciation for the requirements related to the inspection and disclosure of public records, including to legal challenges related to the denial of access to public records.

Remaining Dates and locations:

Cascade Locks – Gorge Pavilion	Dec. 14, 2022, 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Elected Essentials
	Dec. 14, 2022, 6-8 p.m.	OMA New Mayors Workshop
Metolius – Train Depot	Dec. 15, 2022, 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Elected Essentials
	Dec. 15, 2022, 6-8 p.m.	OMA New Mayors Workshop
Island City – City Hall	Jan. 18, 2023, 6-8 p.m.	OMA New Mayors Workshop
	Jan. 19, 2023, 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Elected Essentials
Keizer – Civic Center	Jan. 26, 2023, 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Elected Essentials
	Jan. 26, 2023, 6-8 p.m.	OMA New Mayors Workshop
Vale – Senior Center	Jan. 30, 2023, 6-8 p.m.	OMA New Mayors Workshop
	Jan. 31, 2023, 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Elected Essentials



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- **Public Meetings in Oregon – What the Law Says & Best Practices.** Attendees will learn what constitutes a meeting for purposes of the state’s Public Meeting Law, the legal requirements associated with public meetings, serial meetings, executive sessions, and free speech implications of public participation during meetings. Additionally, the segment will conclude with providing attendees some best practice tips that may help in city council meetings running smoothly.
- **Understanding Your Legal Obligations Under Oregon’s Ethics Laws.** Attendees will learn about the requirements of Oregon’s Ethics laws, and how they are applicable to the work they do on behalf of their city. Specific subject matters covered include: prohibited use of office; conflicts of interest; gifts; nepotism; outside employment; and, statements of economic interest.
- **Social Media – Implications for Public Officials.** Attendees will learn about the benefits and risks of social media for public officials. Important topics include common do’s and don’ts, legal implications, and examples.
- **Legal Powers & Impediments Affecting Elected Officials.** Attendees will learn the common mistakes elected officials make that result in them being sued, identify ways that cities can utilize CityCounty Insurance Services to assist them in employment law matters, and identify ways to keep your city safe from legal exposures.
- **CIS & LOC – Organizations that Help Cities Succeed.** Attendees will learn about the services and programs provided by CityCounty Insurance Services (CIS) and the League of Oregon Cities (LOC). These services and programs are available to member cities. Attendees are likely to be surprised by the breadth and scope of services and programs that both entities provide.

Registration is FREE and lunch is included.

Mayors Workshops

Additionally, the Oregon Mayors Association (OMA) is hosting new mayors’ trainings in conjunction with each session of Elected Essentials. The purpose of these trainings is to provide those new to the role of mayor with an introduction on what it means to be mayor, along with some tools and tips on how to succeed in the role. Veteran mayors are also encouraged to attend to continue their own education and to share their experiences.

Sign Up Now

To register, visit www.orcities.org.

For questions, contact Melissa Dablow, LOC Events and Operations Coordinator: mdablow@orcities.org

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To opt-in to receive a printed copy in the mail, fill out the form at the link below.

[Opt-In for a Printed Copy \(bit.ly/3F22xSp\)](https://bit.ly/3F22xSp)

LOC Wall Calendars Coming Soon

The League’s annual wall calendar will be mailed to cities in late December. As usual, this poster-sized calendar features a wide range of high-quality photographs submitted by our member cities. The calendar also contains information on key events and dates to remember in 2023. Cities can obtain additional copies by emailing loc@orcities.org.



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LOC Welcomes New Staff

The LOC is pleased to announce several new additions to the Member and Administrative Services Department, and the Legal Research Department.



Melissa Dablow is the LOC's new Events and Operations Coordinator. She has nearly five years of experience coordinating educational events and conferences for the Oregon Judicial Department, and has spent the previous 15 years working and volunteering at the state and local level in Oregon.

Melissa enjoys bringing people together and is excited to be a part of the LOC's long-standing tradition of producing excellent conferences and training opportunities for our members. She is responsible for the development, execution, management, and review of the LOC conferences, training programs, workshops, and member outreach programs.



Traci Nichols has joined the LOC as an Administrative Assistant, with a specific focus on LOC events. Traci is an Oregon native, a former city clerk, and spent 21 years as a first responder. Traci provides general administrative support to a wide range of events, conferences and trainings, and supports the LOC's Small Cities Program.



Steffany Sweet has filled the position of Administrative Assistant. She is a graduate of George Fox University, a former teacher, and an Oregon enthusiast. Steffany is excited to support the LOC's mission to serve communities across the state by providing administrative support to members and helping to coordinate all member services.



Julian Castro is the LOC's new Receptionist/Administrative Assistant. Julian has more than four years as a personal assistant, with strong background in e-commerce and social media marketing. He enjoys assisting people in creating seamless solutions in the work place and in everyday life. He is proud

to be a part of the LOC's long-standing tradition of providing excellent service to our members.



Robin Klein joined the LOC in May as an assistant general counsel. She previously served as a deputy district attorney with Jackson and Marion counties. Since May, Robin has excelled at assisting our members with their inquiries and requests for legal guidance, and she is looking forward to continued work with our members.



Meghyn Fahndrich joined LOC in September as a legal assistant. She previously served as an administrative assistant at Bailey Chiropractic and Rehabilitation Center in Salem and as a medical records clerk with OHSU. She is excited to join the LOC and assist our legal and lobbying teams, as well as our members.

The graphic features the NPPGov logo on the left, a plus sign in the center, and the LOC logo on the right. Below the logos, the text reads: "LOC partners with NPPGov. LOC serves as the Lead Public Agency for cooperative contracts available through NPPGov." At the bottom, the website "NPPGov.com" is listed.

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—Thom Harnett, State Rep. and Former Mayor, Gardiner, Maine

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or call us at 802.495.0864 to learn more.**



Congratulations to our 2022 Safety Standout Award Winners!

CIS and LOC Recognize Safe Cities

CIS and the LOC again teamed up to sponsor the annual CIS Employee Safety Awards program for Oregon cities. This program was initiated in 1974 to stimulate interest and participation in loss prevention programs by providing recognition to cities with low accident frequency rates. Last year, however, the focus changed from cities with the fewest claims to recognizing those doing the right things, right now, to prevent future claims.

At the LOC's 97th Annual Conference, CIS recognized outstanding cities in three categories:

- Excellence in Best Practices
- Excellence in Safety
- CIS Innovation

Excellence in Best Practices and Excellence in Safety Winners

The "Excellence in Best Practices" award has three category groups — small, medium, and large cities. CIS conducts a best practice survey with every member city on a three-year cycle. The survey includes questions based on claims trends across CIS membership and offers risk mitigation techniques. Results are more than just a score. They come with recommendations and information on programs that our team finds helpful. Each award went to a city insured by SAIF, and all recipients this year are part of the CIS Servicing Group through SAIF.

The winners for this category not only had high scores — they had also shown improvement. Additional consideration was given to the number of recommendations implemented, the number of staff completing training courses in the CIS Learning Center, and the reduction in claims.

The recipient in the small cities category — those with less than 50 staff — was the city of Harrisburg with a score of 94%. City Administrator Michele Eldridge and City Recorder Lori Ross have done a fantastic job of spearheading efforts for a successful risk management program. They have worked on several projects for community facilities and parks to improve the safety and security for their community.

The large city award — those with more than 150 staff — was the city of Albany, also with a score of 94%. Under the leadership of City Manager Peter Troedsson, the city has made many improvements contributing to the safety and health of both city staff and their community. Albany has invested in safety training and improved their risk management practices.

Finally, the award for a medium-sized city — cities with between 50 and 150 staff — went to the city of Keizer with a score of 97%. Keizer has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to safety throughout their organization. But their recognition does not end there. Keizer was also the recipient of the "Excellence in Safety" award.

The Excellence in Safety award is given to the city that has demonstrated a focus on employee safety in the workplace and has proven results — a reduction in claims, either by frequency or severity. Keizer's excellence is not just recognized by CIS — in May of 2022, they were certified as part of Oregon OSHA's Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program, or SHARP. Although departments of other city governments have achieved SHARP certification, the City of Keizer is the first city in Oregon to earn it on a citywide basis.

And the CIS Innovation Award goes to... the City of Ashland

This award recognizes creativity in reducing claims and employee injuries. Additionally, this award is given in recognition of their innovative safety inspection program. As many already know, Oregon OSHA requires documented safety inspections for your buildings, at least quarterly. Ashland goes above and beyond with their safety inspection reports. Pictures of the violations and entertaining graphics indicate which hazards are fixed and which are repeat violations. They've found a truly creative way to report these violations without making people feel defensive. This encourages all departments to fix their hazards in a timely manner.

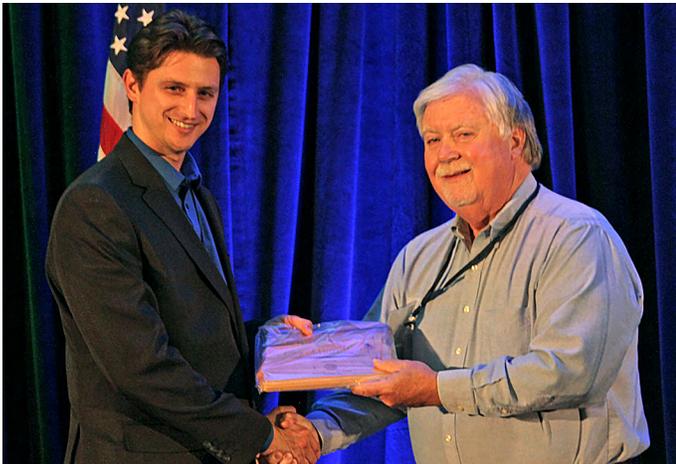
Congratulations to all this year's city winners! Video of the awards can be found on LOC's [97th Annual Conference webpage](#).

Thank You, Regence!

This year, Regence — as a partner and long-time administrator of our Benefits program — stepped up when they learned that some of our smaller cities could not attend the LOC Conference Awards Dinner because of shrinking budgets. They immediately offered to provide grant funding to help bridge the gap. And as a result, staff from 50 small cities, who would not normally be able to attend the event, were able to take part in the evening.



CIS Executive Director Patrick Priest presents the 2022 CIS Safety Awards during the Awards dinner at the LOC's 97th Annual Conference in Bend.



Harrisburg Councilor Adam Keaton accepts the Excellence in Best Practices Award for the small cities category from CIS Board President Kenneth Woods.



Albany Mayor Alex Johnson accepts the Excellence in Best Practices Award for the large cities category from CIS Board President Kenneth Woods.



Keizer Councilor Roland Herrera accepts the Excellence in Best Practices Award for the medium cities category from CIS Board President Kenneth Woods.



CIS Board President Kenneth Woods presents Ashland Deputy City Manager Sabrina Cotta with the city's CIS Innovation Award.



Five Things CIS' New Cybersecurity Specialist Thinks Every Member Should Do to Protect Themselves

CIS has tried to stay ahead of the curve when it comes to cybersecurity. Adding cyber coverage in 2011, we saw just one claim prior to 2018, but the number of claims has skyrocketed since. As technology becomes increasingly more sophisticated, the demand for an experienced and qualified cyber resource to help to protect our members' networks and information systems has never been greater. CIS' staff and board recognized this emerging risk and wanted to get ahead of the growing trend by creating a cybersecurity specialist position.

CIS' Greg Harding has jumped into this new position with both feet. His first undertaking is assisting members to qualify and obtain Tier 2 and Tier 3 coverage. According to Greg, "acquiring Tier 2 or Tier 3 coverage gives CIS members financial protection in the case of having a costly cyberattack. Meeting the cyber hygiene requirements for Tier 2 and Tier 3 coverage gives them a solid foundation for avoiding cyberattacks."

Greg also plans to support members in the implementation of cyber training programs and in the adoption of a cybersecurity policy. According to a Stanford University study in 2020, 88%

of data breaches originate from human error. Within CIS, we saw phishing test failure drop from 30% to less than 5% after a yearlong testing program in which all users were tested quarterly, and those that failed tests were assigned required training.

Cybersecurity is about building a security mindset in the face of ever-evolving threats. According to Greg, there are five things members can start doing now to protect themselves from cyber criminals:

1. Implement MFA (multi-factor authentication) for all accounts that have remote access to sensitive materials or network resources. According to Microsoft, implementing MFA requiring a secondary device for authentication thwarts over 99% of all credential compromises.
2. Implement a good EDR/XDR system that looks for Tactics, Techniques, and Practices (TTP) and not just Indicators of Compromise (IoC).
3. Don't rely solely on Anti-Virus to keep machines safe. Definition-based anti-virus protection is no longer enough. Threat actors are adapting too quickly.
4. Backup, backup, backup! Backups should be gated (only accessible by an account that exists outside of your network), offline/immutable (cannot be changed or have code executed against it), in a different geo region (preferably at

Mobilizing your community



Connected communities are strong communities. By advancing our technologies and services, we're helping to create the opportunities that make Oregon a better place to live and work.

When everything works together, your community moves forward.



least 200 miles from the source) and should be tested at least semi-annually.

5. Train! The CIS Learning Center is an outstanding tool for end user training. Our in-house wizard, Brenda Chapin, can set an entity up with an automated cyber training program, where employees are automatically enrolled in cybersecurity courses in a specific order and on a specified schedule, with reminders sent to the employees and supervisors for incomplete courses.

If you have questions about CIS' requirements for cyber coverage, contact Greg Hardin at (503) 763-3889. Cities can purchase excess cyber coverage at any time during the year by contacting Tena Purdy.

An Employer's Guide to Offering Identity Theft Protection Coverage to Employees

When we think about benefits, health and dental quickly come to mind, but since so much of daily life is now spent online, it's more important than ever to keep our identity as protected as our molars.

If you are interested in adding identify theft protection as an option for your employees, you can select this CIS Benefits coverage in July 2023 during your request for coverage for 2024. Your employees will then have the option to sign up for this plan during the next open enrollment cycle.

According to a 2021 identity fraud study by Javelin Strategy & Research, one in six Americans were impacted by an identity crime in 2020. To help combat this, CIS Benefits offers a voluntary plan — Allstate Identity Protection. By offering Allstate Identity Protection as a benefit, city employees can be prepared and protected when it comes to their identity and finances from a growing range of threats.

This year, 153 CIS Benefits members offered Allstate Identity Protection, with 995 employees enrolling for the benefit. At \$9.95 per person/month or \$17.95 per family/month, this coverage afforded those enrolled the peace of mind of financial account and credit monitoring, 24/7 alerts and fraud recovery, and up to \$1 million identity theft expense coverage.

With the plan, city employees can view and manage alerts in real-time. Key features of the plan include:

- Viewing and controlling personal data with privacy insights and management through Allstate Digital Footprint;
- Monitoring social media accounts for questionable content and signs of account takeover;
- Catching fraud early with tri-bureau monitoring and an annual tri-bureau credit report and score;
- Locking a TransUnion credit report in a click and get credit

freeze assistance;

- Tracking whether IP addresses are compromised;
- Receiving alerts for cash withdrawals, balance transfers, and large purchases; and
- Getting reimbursed for fraud-related losses, like stolen 401(k) or HSA funds.

However, just offering the benefit to employees isn't always enough. Employees are bombarded with other decisions during your open enrollment period, too. And while they might perceive identity theft as a growing danger, they might not understand the full range of protections being offered — or think they're already covered.

Our solution? Make identity protection a part of the growing cybersecurity discussion many of you are already having. Treat awareness like the long-term goal it is and realize that everything you do now could help bring you one step closer to next year's enrollment goals, too.

To learn more about CIS Benefits Allstate Identity Protection plan features, visit www.cisoregon.org/dl/fBsbPpan, or contact your CIS Benefits representative for more information.

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Local Government Spring Conference

April 25-26, 2023 in Seaside

The LOC's 2023 Local Government Spring Conference will be held at the Seaside Convention Center. Hosted in a different part of the state each year, the conference program is specifically created to include topics important to that region. Registration to open late February at www.orcities.org.



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Barton Park - Boring, OR



97TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

After two years as a virtual event, the LOC Annual Conference returned to in-person status for the 97th edition, and once again the scenic landscape of Central Oregon provided the perfect backdrop.

The 97th LOC Annual Conference welcomed nearly 500 city representatives to The Riverhouse on the Deschutes in Bend, and League staff presented a fresh, vibrant, memorable, and worthwhile experience for attendees from all corners of the state.

Living up to its billing, the conference was packed with great content. The sessions were well-attended, there was more dedicated time for networking, and the general sessions were unanimously appreciated. Highlights included two keynote presentations: the Welcome & Keynote on Wednesday with Eric Klinenberg, and a closing presentation by Oregon Senator Ron Wyden. In addition, attendees participated in sessions on topics including homelessness, emergency operations, the First Amendment, recruitment and retention, housing, social media, broadband

infrastructure, cyber security and council-staff relations, and diversity, equity and inclusion.

Finally, the quality of this event, the largest annual gathering of city officials in Oregon each year, simply wouldn't be possible without the support of our sponsors and participating vendors. 2022 was a record year for the level of financial support provided by these organizations (see page 26), and the LOC, its board of directors and member cities truly appreciate these partnerships!

The LOC Conference provides a one-of-a-kind experience for city officials from all corners of the state, so it's not too early to start thinking about the 98th LOC Conference, which is scheduled for October 12-14, 2023 in Eugene. Mark your calendars!

Videos of the general sessions and award presentations are available online at www.orcities.org.

Sessions



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MARK O. HATFIELD STATESMANSHIP AWARD

The Mark O. Hatfield Statesmanship Award is presented to a deserving “statesman” who has provided lasting benefits to the quality of life for Oregon citizens.

George Endicott Mayor, Redmond

A Central Oregon native, Redmond Mayor George Endicott’s service career began in 1969 when he joined the Army and served in Vietnam, Okinawa, and Ft. Hood, Texas. Following military service, he earned his degree from OSU, then worked as a civilian contractor for the Army, Navy, and U.S. Office of the Secretary of Defense.

In 2003, Mayor Endicott retired after nearly 40 years of federal service and returned home. Not long after, he was serving on the Redmond Planning Commission, then was elected to the city council in 2007. He was elected mayor in 2009 and has served seven consecutive terms.

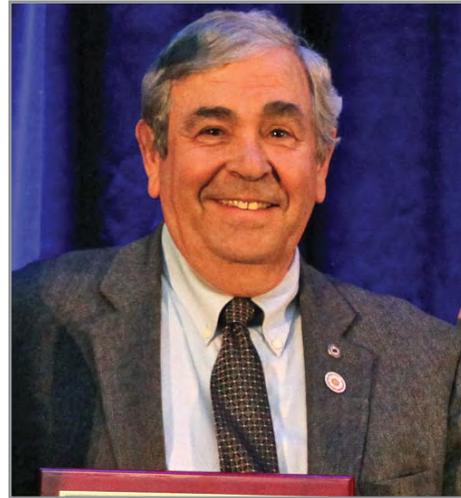
As Mayor, he’s led numerous successful projects, including:

- Transforming the former Redmond Union High School into the current Redmond City Hall;
- Building Centennial Park;
- Completion of the Redmond Reroute;
- Creating the city’s Art in Public Places committee;
- Establishing 2 new wells and reservoirs;
- The reconstruction of the main streets and roads into, out of, and around Redmond; and
- Construction and reconstruction of most of the city’s playgrounds.

During his time as mayor, he’s also served as the president of the League of Oregon Cities (2013) and the Oregon Mayors Association (OMA, 2017). He is a past recipient of the LOC’s James C. Richards Award and the OMA’s Mayors Leadership Award.

He has chaired the Central Oregon Cities Organization, the LOC’s Community Development Committee and was appointed by Governor Kate Brown in 2019 to serve on her Regional Solutions team for Central Oregon.

As an advocate for cities, Mayor Endicott has literally “gone the extra mile” – driving to all corners of the state for meetings and regularly to Salem to testify on bills. A leader for



diversity and equity across Oregon, Mayor Endicott has never wavered in his commitment to bringing people together, getting things done and always staying true to his personal values.

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JAMES C. RICHARDS AWARD

The James C. Richards Award is given to elected city officials who serve the citizens of Oregon through an exceptional personal investment in intergovernmental affairs.

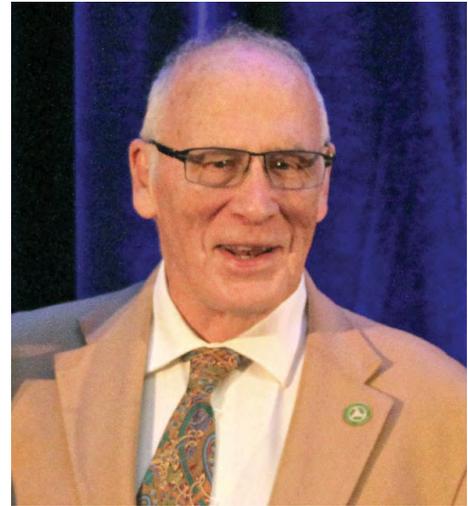
Pete Truax Mayor, Forest Grove

Forest Grove Mayor Pete Truax has served the city of Forest Grove for 22 years, starting on the city's planning commission, then on the city council, and finally as mayor for the last 13 years. His dedication and insights have helped improve lives in his community and throughout the state. His accomplishments include:

- Creating an urban renewal agency, which led to the construction of a downtown multi-family residence;
- The passage of numerous local option levies and a new city charter; and
- Creation of a mural in Forest Glen Park, recognizing the city's history on native land.

Mayor Truax has served on numerous regional and state boards and commissions, including as the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) president in 2015. He's been a regular at the LOC's City Day at the Capitol event, and at the National League of Cities' Congressional Cities Conference.

Mayor Truax has advocated for equity and inclusion and practiced them with honesty, humility, and integrity. Across Oregon, he is recognized as a shining example of public service and diplomacy. With his engaging mix of humor and sports metaphors, he's helped ensure that his peers in government work together for the greater good.



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HERMAN KEHRLI AWARD

The Herman Kehrl award is given to a city employee who has made exceptional contributions to city government in Oregon, producing lasting benefits for their community. The LOC recognized co-recipients of the Kehrl Award this year.

Peggy Hawker City Recorder, Newport

Newport City Recorder Peggy Hawker has served the city of Newport for the past 22 years. She's been a municipal clerk for more than 30 years, first in Colorado, and then in Oregon. Her council members rave about: Hawker's guidance on council procedures; her expertise in government ethics; and her invaluable assistance with the city's beautification and arts activities.

A longtime leader for the Oregon Association of Municipal Recorders, Hawker has served as the organization's president, an instructor, and chair of its education committee. She continually provides mentorship to new recorders, and in 2012, was recognized as Oregon's Recorder of the Year. In 2018, the International Institute of Municipal Clerks honored Peggy with the prestigious Quill Award, recognizing clerks who have made significant and exemplary contributions to their communities, their state, and the Institute.



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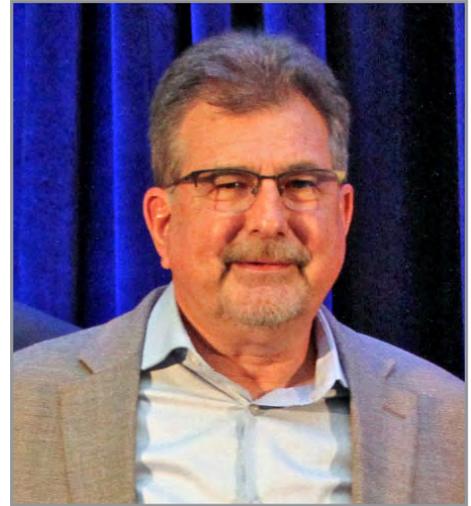
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HERMAN KEHRLI AWARD

Mark Reagles City Administrator, Rogue River



Recently retired Rogue River City Administrator Mark Reagles started his career with the city of Rogue River as public works director in 1994 and became city administrator in 2000. Over 28 years, he has served nine mayors, 33 city councilors, and countless planning commissioners, budget committee members, staff, and community volunteers. His many accomplishments for the city include:

- Overseeing the building of the city's current water and wastewater treatment plants;
- Managing the downtown revitalization that produced the Downtown Plaza Park;
- Guiding the completion of the first leg of the Rogue River Greenway, a trail connecting the city south to Gold Hill; and
- The planning and building of Rooster Park, home to the annual Roster Crowing Contest and a gathering place that is integral to Rogue River's community identity.

With a unique set of skills, Reagles has been a community fundraiser, a mentor to city officials, and an important voice for small cities in shaping state policy.

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CITY AWARD WINNERS

Award for Excellence

The Award for Excellence recognizes progressive and innovative city operations and services. This year, the LOC presented the award to co-recipients.

City of Lake Oswego "Shop Lake Grove" Program

As Lake Oswego initiated its Boones Ferry Road Improvement project, the goal was to transform the area into a welcoming and accessible corridor by reconstructing and widening nearly a mile of undersized arterial roadway. However, a significant challenge had to be overcome, as more than 200 businesses within the busy Lake Grove commercial district would be directly impacted by this ambitious, multi-year project.

In response, the city engaged the community early and often, and developed a robust "Shop Lake Grove" promotional program. This included free promotional videos, media articles and social media campaigns, like "Who's Who on Boones Ferry Road," which highlighted a different business each month. In addition, a free monthly raffle offered customers a chance to win \$100 gift cards to a participating business of their choice. By promoting the program and highlighting many local businesses, new and old customers were brought into the Lake Grove district – and not a single business had to close due to the construction. In fact, a few new businesses opened. Many also revitalized their frontages in conjunction with the street improvements.



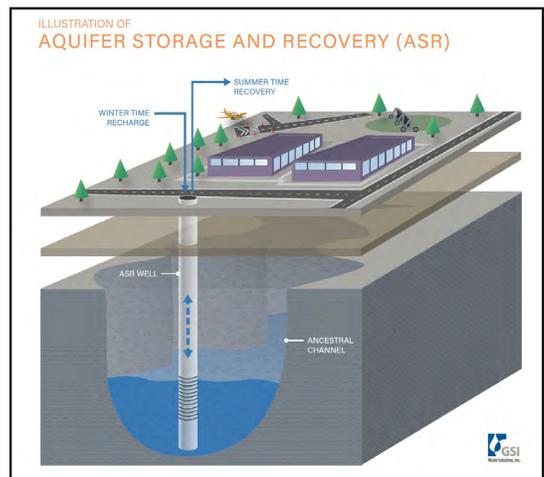
City of Prineville Aquifer Storage & Recovery Program

Central Oregon, and especially Prineville, are experiencing an unprecedented "megadrought." As climate change intensifies water insecurity, Prineville's Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) project offers an environmentally sustainable and cost-sensitive solution to mitigate the impacts of drought and support economic development.

The storage and recovery system works by injecting and storing treated drinking water in an aquifer during the winter, when demand is low and stream flows are higher. Stored water can be recovered for use during the summer, when water resources are stressed.

The system also adds supply resiliency by providing an underground reservoir for use during a prolonged drought or production supply interruption. Surface water from the Prineville Reservoir is released to negate the impact of developing the injection water, and the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife has partnered with the city to manage these releases.

Implemented in 2019, the project is so far exceeding its goals, as groundwater levels in the local aquifer increased by 11 feet last year.



CITY AWARD WINNERS

Helen & Alan Berg Good Governance Award

The Helen & Alan Berg Good Governance Award recognizes progressive and innovative city operations and services. This year, the LOC presented the award to co-recipients.

City of Tigard Public Safety Advisory Committee

In the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd in 2020, the city of Tigard's elected officials received more than 500 comments from community members, with many calling for the public examination and reassessment of the Tigard Police Department. This outpouring of public input shaped the Tigard City Council's discussion of racial justice and city action. Mayor Jason Snider invited the community to identify and eliminate institutional racism to ensure equity within all city operations and structures, and to improve the lived experience of all people of color.

Through a co-design process, the Tigard community, the Tigard City Council, and the Tigard Police Department joined together to identify a community-driven solution for police reform and racial justice. This led to the creation of the Tigard Public Safety Advisory Board. As one of several initiatives in the city's Anti-Racism Action Plan, the advisory board is responsible for reviewing the city's public safety practices, having inclusive community conversations about these practices, and making recommendations to city council on these practices.



City of Chiloquin Elementary School Green Schoolyard Project

The project was a collaborative effort to enhance the accessibility and safety of the Chiloquin Elementary School playground by incorporating adjacent community spaces, including walking paths and gardening space on the school campus.

The project overhauled the playground area, added a covered basketball court, replaced outdated playground equipment, and added ADA accessibility. The space also incorporated plants and other features that require less water to maintain. The plants will be identified by interpretative signs in English and native Klamath language.

To buy native plants for these areas, Chiloquin Elementary was awarded a National Wildlife Federation grant. The new schoolyard brings much-needed green space to the community and will be open after school hours.

More than a dozen local groups, including The Klamath Tribes, the Trust for Public Lands, the city of Chiloquin, the Klamath County School Board, Chiloquin Visions in Progress, and The Ford Family Foundation, partnered with local teachers, students, and residents to raise more than \$1.4 million dollars for the project.



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2023 Legislative Session Preview

Lobbying efforts since the 2020 short session were literally flipped upside down due to the world-wide Coronavirus pandemic. As we transition from a global pandemic to an endemic, the 2023 legislative session will still feel similar to the previous two years because of the ongoing seismic upgrades in the Capitol.

Meanwhile, the LOC's advocacy efforts in 2023 will face several challenges and unknowns.

First, public access to the Capitol will be a hybrid of sorts. The public will have access to the building, but due to the ongoing construction, legislative leadership staff is recommending that meetings be set up in advance. In addition, they are advising that once meetings have concluded or testimony has been provided, participants should then leave the building. Virtual testimony will remain a component of committee hearings, and as we learn additional specifics closer to January, we will keep our members informed.

A second challenge for the LOC's advocacy efforts: one-third of the Legislature will be new because of the November election. Meanwhile, past interactions with the other two-thirds of the Legislature will have occurred in a virtual environment. We expect the relationship building with legislators to be challenging, as the dynamics of virtual interaction are much different from in-person. The turnover in the Legislature also presents a challenge to the grassroots effort that LOC members have rallied behind, because many cities will have new legislators representing their interests. This will make establishing relationships critical.

Senator Rob Wagner of Lake Oswego will be taking over as Senate President in 2023. Senator Tim Knopp from Bend will continue as the Senate Republican leader and Representative Vicki Breese Iverson of Prineville will continue as House Republican leader. Representative Dan Rayfield of Corvallis took over as Speaker of the House in February 2022. We will now



wait for committee selection process, which will be in place in advance of the 2023 session.

To be successful, LOC members will need to rally behind the LOC's 2023 key priorities. The League will need your collective help to focus on relationship building with legislators. When alerts go out, we'll need every city to take time to contact their legislators and provide input to legislative committees. The eight key priorities were approved by the board in August and help frame the lobby team's legislative focus. These priorities are described in greater detail on page 32.

Organizational Priorities

In addition, we have a set of organizational priorities that are critically important to the lobby team, because they help our evaluation of issues and provide some direction for a response. These organizational priorities are:

- **Reform Oregon's Property Tax System.** Adopted by voters in the 1990s, the current system based on Measures 5 and 50:
 - Is inequitable to property owners and jurisdictions alike;
 - Is often inadequate to allow jurisdictions to provide critical services;
 - Removes meaningful local choice; and
 - Is incomprehensible to most taxpayers.

Reform has been a longstanding priority for cities, and the LOC will continue to advocate for constitutional and statutory reforms to enhance local choice, equity, fairness, and adequacy.

- **Avoiding Unfunded Mandates.** During recent legislative sessions, cities have been inundated with mandates that require them to take on additional work and shift priorities away from locally identified priorities to those that the state deems to be of greater importance.
- **Preserving Local Decision-Making and Problem-Solving Authority.** While local communities often face similar challenges, the solutions and tools necessary to address those challenges are rarely the same for each local community. What works in one city, may not work in another.

- **Preserving Local Revenue Streams.** Local governments only have a few tools in their toolbox when it comes to sources that fund essential city services. While revenues have taken a hit from the COVID-19 pandemic and communities wait for the economy to bounce back, cities will start to rely more on the finite revenues from state shared revenues, franchise/ROW fees, lodging taxes, and property taxes than before. Therefore, these revenue streams should be preserved at all costs.

- **Serving in a Supportive Role to Provide Local Tools and Resources.** The LOC recognizes that the state budget is severely constrained, and is committed to recognizing this reality as it pursues legislative and programmatic investments. The LOC asks that the state similarly recognize the budget realities of local governments and work to identify opportunities for targeted investments and tools to address needs at the local level.

- **Avoiding Shifting of Additional Costs onto Local Government Partners.** The LOC is concerned that decreased general fund and lottery revenues could result in further shifting of state programmatic costs onto local governments. This includes program funding involving a split of general fund and fees that may be paid by local governments. Any increase in fees to support state programs should be accompanied by an equitable increase in general fund investment. Increased costs to local governments mean increased costs for Oregonians, or further cuts to the services they rely on.

Build or start your legislative outreach NOW. If you don't have a relationship with a state legislator, start one! If you have a new legislator, start the outreach now! Focus on the core education of what cities provide their communities and what issues create challenges. You might be surprised at the knowledge gap.

Finally, join us for **City Day at the Capitol** on January 25 to be heard and to work with other LOC members. We are making plans for the day, which include invitations to incoming Governor Tina Kotek and the entire leadership group from both chambers and major parties. ■



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2023 Legislative Priorities



The League of Oregon Cities' (LOC) Board of Directors unanimously adopted eight legislative priorities for cities for the 2023 and 2024 sessions. The priorities were identified through a committee process this spring and a vote by the LOC's 241 member cities this summer. The following eight issues received the most votes from members, and were adopted by the LOC Board:

1 Infrastructure Finance & Resilience, and Funding for Critical Infrastructure for Needed Housing

LOC Lobbyists: Michael Martin, mmartin@orcities.org; Ariel Nelson, anelson@orcities.org

Legislative concept: The LOC will advocate for increased state investment in key infrastructure funding sources, including, but not limited to, the Special Public Works Fund (SPWF), the Brownfield Redevelopment Fund, the Regionally Significant Industrial Site program, and set asides through the SPWF for seismic resilience planning and related infrastructure improvements to make Oregon water and wastewater systems more resilient. The LOC will also support comprehensive funding and technical support for infrastructure to make sure those projects selected for state funding are completed. In addition, the LOC will advocate to better align infrastructure resources to support the development of needed housing affordable at or below 120% of the average median income (AMI).

Background: As Oregon works to overcome its historic housing supply deficit, cities have limited tools to address the rising costs of infrastructure necessary to support the impact of new development. Increased state investment is needed to effectively address infrastructure costs and improve housing affordability. Increasing state resources in infrastructure programs that provide access to lower rate loans and grants will assist cities in investing in vital infrastructure. An LOC survey of cities in 2020 identified a need of \$9.7 billion over the next 20 years to cover water and wastewater infrastructure projects for the 100 responding cities.

2 Local Funding to Address Homelessness

LOC Lobbyist: Ariel Nelson, anelson@orcities.org

The LOC will seek state funding to support coordinated, local community responses to addressing homelessness.

3 Address Measure 110 Shortcomings

LOC Lobbyist: Scott Winkels, swinkels@orcities.org

Legislative concept: The LOC is advocating for the Legislature to convene a meaningful stakeholder conversation to reform Measure 110 to ensure the efficient and coordinated distribution of funds and effective inducements for entering treatment programs.

Background: In 2020, Oregon voters passed Ballot Measure 110, which significantly altered how Oregon treats simple possession of most narcotics. Criminal penalties for possession of small amounts of narcotics were replaced with a citation and a referral to a helpline, and funds were dedicated to harm reduction and treatment services. However, a small percentage of those receiving citations have actually appeared in court, and the distribution of funds was delayed by as much as seven months in some counties. The LOC is asking for a holistic and thoughtful review of Measure 110 to address Oregon's continuing and unabating addiction crisis.

4 Economic Development Incentives

LOC Lobbyist: Mark Gharst, mgharst@orcities.org

The LOC will support legislation to preserve and strengthen discretionary local economic development incentives, including the Enterprise Zone (EZ) Program, the Long-Term Rural Enterprise Zone (LTREZ) Program and the Strategic Investment Program (SIP).

5 Community Resiliency & Wildfire Planning

LOC Lobbyist: Ariel Nelson, anelson@orcities.org

Legislative concept: The LOC will support investments for climate and wildfire resiliency planning, as well as infrastructure upgrades, to fill existing gaps and assist cities in planning for extreme weather events and wildfire.

Background: Oregon communities are increasingly looking for help in planning for climate change impacts, including infrastructure upgrades, to handle extreme weather events. Cities of all sizes, particularly small to mid-sized cities, need technical assistance and additional capacity to better plan for and recover from climate events and wildfire. Investments in infrastructure upgrades, repairs, and resiliency will: help rebuild communities; better ensure equity and access to critical services; protect public health and the environment; improve community resiliency; and promote economic recovery.

6 Transportation Safety Enhancement

LOC Lobbyist: Jim McCauley, jmccauley@orcities.org

Legislative concept: Expand authority to all cities for use of fixed and mobile radar and allow the use of photo radar in high-speed corridors. The LOC will also advocate for increased flexibility for local speed setting authority, increased investment in the “safe routes to schools” program and expanding the “great streets” programs.

Background: With the addition of fixed and mobile photo radar along high-crash corridors and other transportation routes, the city of Portland and other cities have demonstrated improved safety outcomes in neighborhoods. The LOC’s efforts to expand the use of fixed photo radar during the 2019 and 2021 sessions failed. For 2023, the LOC Transportation Policy Committee selected a series of public safety outcomes that framed a legislative priority. This concept focuses on extending the same safety tools available for a few select cities. Fixed photo radar is limited to Portland and only for use in high-crash corridors. The use of mobile photo radar is confined to Albany, Beaverton, Bend, Gladstone, Medford, Milwaukie, Oregon City, Tigard, and Portland. There is no justifiable explanation for limiting photo radar to a select list of cities. Every community should have equal access to these tools.

7 Full Funding & Alignment for State Land Use Initiatives

LOC Lobbyist: Ariel Nelson, anelson@orcities.org

Legislative concept: The LOC will support legislation to streamline and fully fund local implementation of any recently adopted or proposed state land use planning requirements, including administrative rulemaking.

Background: Recent legislation and executive orders have made significant changes to the state’s land use planning process, which has resulted in increasing burdens for local government. While the LOC shares the state’s policy goals, these updates have resulted in extensive, continuous, and sometimes conflicting rulemaking efforts that are not supported by adequate state funding. Cities simply do not have the staff capacity or resources needed to implement current requirements. Existing planning updates should be streamlined to enable simpler, less costly implementation and any new proposals must be aligned with existing requirements.

8 Lodging Tax Flexibility

LOC Lobbyist: Mark Gharst, mgharst@orcities.org

The LOC will advocate for legislation to enhance flexibility in cities’ use of transient lodging tax revenues. The goal is to help cities better serve visitors and improve local conditions that support the tourism industry. ■



How Three LOC Priorities Will Have Local Impacts

By Melody Finnemore

Among the LOC's priorities for this session are support for legislation that preserves and strengthens economic development incentives, including the Enterprise Zone (EZ)

Program, the Long-Term Rural Enterprise Zone (LTREZ) Program and the Strategic Investment Program (SIP). For cities like Umatilla and Gresham, these programs have generated hundreds of jobs, millions in annual revenues that help support schools, and billions of dollars in investments.

The LOC also is advocating for legislation to enhance flexibility in cities' use of transient lodging tax revenues. The goal is to help cities better serve visitors and improve local conditions that support the tourism industry. Newport and Seaside, along with many other cities, could use more of that money for road repairs and infrastructure as well as public safety and additional staffing.

Another of this year's priorities, local funding to address homelessness, will further support coordinated, local community responses to addressing homelessness. The Oregon Mayors Association (OMA) Homelessness Taskforce has crafted a proposal for the Legislature's consideration that will fund several coordinated efforts already underway as well as new efforts.

City leaders from Umatilla, Gresham, Newport, Seaside, North Plains and Hermiston shared with *Local Focus* how these legislative priorities directly impact local residents and will, in the years to come, continue to strengthen their communities.

Economic Development Incentives

Umatilla City Manager David Stockdale likens the region's LTREZ program to a "domino effect" that has generated many positive impacts for the community. These impacts range from increased revenues for the city, to eased financial burdens on the local school district that helped pass a general obligation bond for new school facilities, to more jobs and housing for the people who live there.

The economic development incentives span over a decade to the first data center Amazon completed in Umatilla. When the online retail giant built its first data center in 2012, Umatilla's annual budget was \$13 million. That doubled in 2016 when Amazon built its second center and, with a third center due for completion in 2024, the city's annual budget is now \$55 million in order to keep up with the community's demands for services.



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Amazon is building its third data center in Umatilla, thanks to the region's Long-Term Rural Enterprise Zone program.

“By the time we get these abatement dollars, we’re able to turn around and leverage those funds for other economic development and it’s a match with federal and state dollars,” Stockdale said, adding more than half of its budget this year comes from federal and state sources.

Umatilla has negotiated one EZ that is five years, four LTREZs that are 15 years each, and one SIP with the county. City leaders recently completed negotiations on the final two LTREZs. The economic development incentives have allowed the city to earmark at least \$50,000 a year for public safety and at least an additional \$50,000 per year for schools.

Stockdale said that, as the city’s relationship with Amazon has grown over time, the company’s commitment to the community has evolved as well.

“The first time they came in we were just happy to be a partner. Then, as they continued to invest, we were able to have the conversation about how they can be more of an engaged community partner and start chipping in for schools,” he said.

Housing is another piece of that partnership. In 2018, the city conducted a buildable lands assessment that showed a shortage of 1,200 housing units. Previously, the most homes it had built in any given year was 13, and it had added just 100 new homes over more than a decade.

(continued on page 34)



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However, with one Amazon data center completed in 2018 and another under construction, 60 homes were built. The number continued to grow and Umatilla now adds 100 or more homes each year. An 81-acre site for 324 houses off Grant Avenue is now under development.

“Amazon helped to show developers that the need is there, our population growth is happening and a large anchor tenant is making significant investments. New employees are coming in and are getting above median market wages,” Stockdale said.

Since Gresham adopted its EZ program in 2006, it has brought in more than \$1 billion in new buildings, tenant improvements and improved equipment. Its EZ requires adding new jobs, creating career pathways with a focus on local residents, and paying a community service fee in the final two years of a five-year abatement. The companies are expected to increase employment by 10% and the average wage must be 200% of minimum wage with strong benefits, the *Portland Tribune* explained in a 2021 article about the program’s success.

“That tool has been extremely beneficial to the city, not only for recruitment of new companies but also to help support our existing companies,” said Erika Fitzgerald, AICP, the city’s senior economic development specialist, noting that in addition to hundreds of millions of dollars in new investment, the EZ has helped to create more than 1,000 new jobs.

Gresham redesignated its EZ program in 2016 with the full support of its mayor and city council. The next redesignation is set for 2026, but the state program sunsets in 2025. She said an extension of the sunset date is critical for Oregon as a whole, and especially Gresham because it has seen so many benefits from it.

“We have few economic development tools in the state of Oregon, and the enterprise zone is a really important tool for economic development practitioners to be able to do the work that we do,” said Fitzgerald, who also serves as vice president of the Oregon Economic Development Association’s Board of Directors.

Lodging Tax Flexibility

Newport Mayor Dean Sawyer has long puzzled over how lodging tax percentages set in 2003 were determined. The current rate dedicates 70% of new room taxes after 2003 toward tourism promotion or tourism-related facilities and no more than 30% for a city’s general fund. Prior to that, local governments could determine how the tax should be divided for tourism and governmental purposes. For the city of Newport, the split was more even, with 54% dedicated to general operations and 46% for tourism promotion.

“I’ve asked around and no one seems to know how the Legislature came up with that figure,” he said. “That causes us a burden because we have to spend 70% on promotion or facilities and we are a small town with other needs.”

As an example, Sawyer notes, Newport has 20,000 to 30,000 people putting wear and tear on its streets, yet receives the same amount of funding for road repairs as Independence. While they both have populations of about 10,000 people, Newport is



Flexibility in using lodging tax dollars would benefit the city of Newport, a popular year-round tourist destination. The city would use the flexibility to invest in roads, sidewalks, public safety and infrastructure.

frequented by tourists at a higher rate.

“Whenever the price of gas goes up the price of asphalt goes up, so it’s very expensive for us,” he said.

In addition to the wear on the roads, Newport’s popularity as a tourist destination drives up public safety costs through medical emergencies, drunk driving arrests, domestic disputes and theft, among other issues.

Overall inflation is a factor for the city as well, with costs for the goods and services it needs increasing. Its primary source of funding is property taxes, and between rate limitations and the 3% limit on the growth of assessed values those revenues are not keeping pace with the rise in inflation.

While Newport has a host of infrastructure and other municipal needs, it has no shortage of tourists and doesn’t do any promotion at all during the summers because its lodging is mostly booked. Its Seafood & Wine Festival, held each February, also draws ample visitors during the coast’s “shoulder season.”

Furthermore, investment in roads, sidewalks, trails and other infrastructure improves the experience that people have when visiting places like Newport. Investment in these areas is good for tourism, Sawyer said.

“Newport is a big tourism town and tourism is a significant source of revenue for us. We’re just asking for more flexibility in how we spend the lodging tax revenue,” he said. “I’ve talked

with several communities on the coast as well as Portland and Bend. This will impact most cities around the state because most areas have tourists.”

Seaside Council President and Mayor-Elect Steve Wright agrees with Sawyer and is gratified to see the issue rise as a legislative priority after several years of discussion. “We have a lot of tourism already and we’re really good at getting people to come here. We just want a little more flexibility in how we use that 70% of the lodging tax.”

Wright said that Seaside’s tourism numbers skyrocketed after pandemic restrictions eased and visitors could return. The city has a population of about 7,000 people, but on any nice weekend in the winter that number can double and, during summer months, grow sixfold.

Like Newport, Seaside needs more of its lodging tax revenue for infrastructure maintenance, public safety and other operating costs. These include staffing up for major events such as Spring Break, the July 4th celebration and its annual beach volleyball tournament.

“We’re not saying we’re not going to promote tourism, but our hands have been tied a bit,” Wright said. “It’s also pertinent to note that Seaside is one of the very first cities in the state that reached out to do what we could to help the lodging industry when COVID hit and we shut down.”

He noted that Seaside allowed the local lodging industry to retain the city’s portion of the lodging tax for the first quarter of 2020, which amounted to about \$800,000. It also provided \$250,000 in grant funding to support local businesses, and each of its water customers received a credit of \$50.

“We reached out and tried to help everybody as we could. We recognized the importance of our lodging industry by giving that money back to them,” Wright said, adding Seaside has one of the few convention centers on the coast as well as a welcome center.

“Tourism is an important industry to us and we’re trying to do everything we can to support it. We’d just like a little more flexibility,” he said.

Homeless Response Funding Proposal

The OMA Homelessness Taskforce, formed in May 2022, met regularly over the summer and fall to develop its homelessness plan, which was finalized and approved Oct. 14. The plan was subsequently emailed to all 90 members of the Oregon Legislature and the three gubernatorial candidates.

The taskforce’s plan to address the homelessness crisis in Oregon is a partnership between the state and its 241 cities. This partnership will allow for the establishment and expansion of local, community-based responses that provide immediate shelter and needed services for unhoused Oregonians. During the 2023 Legislative session, the OMA will propose two separate, yet parallel, budget proposals.

The first is a budget package that provides direct allocation to cities for homelessness response and prevention services. Under

this proposal, each city would receive allocated funds of \$40 per resident based on the latest official population estimates from Portland State University. The OMA taskforce, recognizing that some small, rural cities have smaller populations, has asked for cities to receive at least \$50,000 in annual funding.

The direct allocation proposal also provides for cities to have the ability to use money for their own homelessness response and prevention services, or redirect funds to community partners who are required to use the money for homelessness response and prevention services.

“In North Plains, for example, we have partnered with the Forest Grove Foundation, the local Salvation Army, Washington County Homelessness Services and Community Action,” said Mayor Teri Lenahan, president-elect of the OMA.

“We do not have the infrastructure, affordable housing or shelters that are needed so, in our particular situation, if we have somebody who is homeless we would be more likely to partner with those organizations to help us out,” she said, adding North Plains would use the money for prevention services instead of building shelters or contracting with someone to build shelters.

With a \$50,000 guarantee for all cities, and a \$40 per resident multiplier in place, based on the April 19, 2022, PSU population estimates, the total amount requested would equal about \$123.5 million annually.

(continued on page 36)

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The second portion of the proposal requests a budget package for coordinated capital construction investments for specific shelter and transitional housing projects statewide. It is expected that a final dollar amount needed for capital construction investments will total between \$125 million and \$175 million.

“This is a very specific ask and it is intended to be an ongoing ask. Each community has its own unique challenges and the ‘one-size-fits-all solution’ will not work for every city. We want the State of Oregon to own this and trust the cities’ mayors when they say, ‘Yes, this is an ongoing problem and we want a collaborative approach to fix it,’” Lenahan said.

Fellow taskforce member Dr. David Drotzmann, mayor of Hermiston, said his city is among those whose financial resources have been significantly impacted by homelessness, making it difficult to provide other operational services that are required.

In addition to the OMA taskforce’s request, Drotzmann would like to see additional state resources for affordable housing and behavioral health services. “Our mental health professionals are severely undercompensated. It’s a very challenging profession, and those folks need to be compensated appropriately,” he said.

Drotzmann noted that flexibility with the funding is essential. “Hillsboro’s solutions aren’t Hermiston’s solutions, so we need to have the flexibility to work locally with our partners,” he said.

“We are definitely willing to partner with the state on policies that have a proven track record of being effective for multiple regions and cities,” Drotzmann added. “We understand that every community is different and every community’s issues are different.”

Hermiston has partnered with Umatilla, Echo and Stanfield to implement the Practical Assistance through Transitional Housing (PATH) Project. Two acres in Umatilla have been designated for a main facility that would allow for overnight stays and transitional housing in sleeping huts with room for one or two people. The PATH Project also would provide showers, meal facilities, indoor and outdoor common areas, and a navigation center that would offer support services.

Lenahan called the taskforce’s proposal “a game changer for some of our communities” that is generating a lot of excitement.

“I can’t advocate enough for the mayors leading this on-the-ground response on homelessness because mayors know their communities. We know if we need prevention, we know if we need capital improvement, and cities just can’t do it by themselves. We need joint leadership and joint ownership and a partnership to help our residents have a better life,” she said.

Ms. Finnemore is a Portland-area freelance writer. Contact her at precisionpdx@comcast.net. ■



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Contact the LOC Advocacy Team

Reach out to the LOC Intergovernmental Relations team if you have questions or need more information on legislative bills and priorities:

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(971) 428-7275 | swinkels@orcities.org

LOC Legislative Webpage – Resources for Cities

The [Legislative page](#) on the LOC website is your resource during the 2023 session. Information you'll find there includes:

- Details on each of the eight legislative priorities;
- The latest legislative news;
- City Day at the Capitol resources and registration;
- How to contact your legislator;
- Bill tracker links and tutorials on how to get the most out of these legislative tools.



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

CITY DAY AT THE CAPITOL JANUARY 25, 2023

The LOC invites current elected and appointed city officials to join mayors, city councilors, and city staff members for our City Day at the Capitol on **January 25, 2023** starting at 9 a.m. in Salem. This event is your chance to stand with other city officials from around Oregon in support of legislative actions that will return greater local authority over local decisions. It is also the time to let legislators know how actions they take could impact our communities and the difficult decisions we make. By coming together, our collective voices will make a difference to advance our legislative agenda.

Highlights of City Day at the Capitol will include presentations from the LOC's government relations team on legislative priorities, and briefings from Oregon's new governor and legislative leadership about their priorities for the 2023 session. You will also have time for individual visits with your legislators, afternoon seminars and a legislative reception with legislators and staff. We expect nearly 200 people to attend.

The most important part of the day will be your individual visits with legislators. The LOC will provide transportation to the Capitol. You are encouraged to schedule your visits with your state Senators and Representatives during the afternoon (1 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.). More information on scheduling visits will be provided with your registration confirmation.

The Legislative Reception will be held that evening from 4:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. at the Salem Convention Center.

Registration for City Day at the Capitol is due by 5 p.m. on Thursday, January 19.

Register online at www.orcities.org.

Preliminary Agenda

8:15 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast Begins

9 a.m. – 1 p.m. General Session

Invited Speakers:

- Oregon Governor Tina Kotek
- Senate President
- Senate Republican Leader
- Speaker of the House
- House Republican Leader

1. Welcome from LOC Board President and OMA President
2. Messages from LOC Executive and Legislative Directors
3. Legislative Landscape
4. Capitol Construction Process
5. Working with Legislative Staff - Paperless Offices
6. LOC Legislative Priorities

12 p.m. – 5 p.m. Afternoon Activities

- Boxed lunches available at Salem Convention Center
- Shuttle bus to Capitol for scheduled legislative visits and Local Government Center leaves every 15 minutes.
- Workshops at Local Government Center
- Meeting space available at Local Government Center
- State agency tables at Salem Convention Center

4:30 p.m. – 7 p.m. Legislative Reception

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Building Relationships with State Legislative and Congressional Offices

By Nolan Pleše, LOC Lobbyist

At the recent LOC Annual Conference in Bend, one of the breakout sessions provided the “Do’s and Don’ts” of building relationships with state legislative and U.S. congressional offices. Here are three key takeaways.

The first, and probably most important thing to remember: respect. Specifically, this means respect for the staff and interns just as much, or more, as respect for the legislator or congressional member. These folks are the key to success in any office and getting any asks completed. Burning a bridge with staff will make it significantly more difficult to communicate and receive key support in a timely manner.

Second, make sure you reach out early and often to both staff and legislator. Mid-session is too late. Start to build those relationships as soon as possible with both staff and members. They will be more responsive to your emails or calls when they know who you are. Coffee or lunch anyone?

Lastly, know what you need to ask for regardless of political affiliations. Your party does not matter as much as your community. State legislators and congressional members want to support their communities. Ignoring communities that may have opposing political beliefs is not a good strategy for them. There are policies you all will not agree on, but there are areas where you will. Do not let politics or ideology get in the way of reaching out to ask for your community’s needs. Staff and members do not prioritize party affiliation over helping a constituent or a constituent community.

If this all seems like common sense, it should. All of us expect the same, as does our business community and community members. In the end, it is about respect and taking the time to get to know one another. Because at the end of the day, it will pay off for you and your community. ■



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Oregon Mayors Association Announces Plan to Address Statewide Homelessness

In mid-October, the Oregon Mayors Association's (OMA) Homelessness Taskforce submitted a letter to Oregon's three gubernatorial candidates and the Legislature, outlining its plan to successfully address the current statewide homelessness crisis. This was followed by a virtual briefing with news media from across the state on October 31.

The plan is designed to humanely address the homelessness crisis in a timely fashion through a partnership between state government and Oregon's 241 cities. The partnership would allow for the establishment and expansion of local, community-based responses that provide immediate shelter, needed services, and secure safety for unhoused Oregonians. Additionally, the partnership would require the enactment of two separate, yet parallel, budget proposals during the 2023 legislative session: a budget package which provides direct allocation to cities for

homelessness response and prevention services; and an allocation that provides capital improvement funding for cities.

Direct Allocation for All Cities

The OMA plan's direct funding allocation to each incorporated city in Oregon is needed for cities to use as part of their homelessness response and prevention services. Each city would be allocated funds in an amount equal to \$40 per resident, in accordance with the latest official population estimates from Portland State University (PSU). In no instance will an incorporated city receive less than \$50,000 in direct funding. Cities may elect to use the funds for their own homelessness response and prevention services, or may redirect their funds to community partners who are required to use the funds for homelessness response and prevention services.

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The homelessness response and prevention services may include:

- Abatement/clean-up
- Environmental mitigation
- Affordable housing
- Capital construction or improvement costs related to homelessness or affordable housing measures
- Community resource officers
- Education and outreach
- Food bank assistance
- Shelter and/or transitional housing
- Hygiene stations
- Operation costs
- Outreach workers
- Prevention

With a \$50,000 guarantee for all cities, and a \$40.00 per resident multiplier in place, based on the April 19, 2022, PSU population estimates, the total amount would equal \$123,575,800.00.

Capital Construction Allocation

In addition to the direct allocations, the OMA plan requires a meaningful allocation from the state for coordinated capital construction investments for specific shelter and transitional housing projects, statewide. It is expected that the final dollar amount for needed capital construction investments will equal between \$125 to \$175 million.

The OMA Homelessness Taskforce, consisting of 25 mayors from across the state, was created in May to develop a response to homelessness that would help all communities statewide, regardless of size or location, to address the issue.

The taskforce currently includes the following mayors:

- Teri Lenahan, North Plains; OMA President
- Julie Akins, Ashland
- Henry Balensifer III, Warrenton
- Lacy Beaty, Beaverton
- Steve Callaway, Hillsboro
- Rod Cross, Toledo
- Dave Drotzmann, Hermiston
- Jessica Engelke, North Bend
- Richard Mays, The Dalles
- Meadow Martell, Cave Junction
- Randy Sparacino, Medford
- Michael Preedin, Sisters
- Travis Stovall, Gresham
- Jim Trett, Detroit
- Ray Turner, Lakeview
- Tom Vialpando, Vale
- Lucy Vinis, Eugene
- Carol Westfall, Klamath Falls
- Ted Wheeler, Portland

In addition, the following outgoing mayors will continue to serve on the taskforce:

- Gena Goodman-Campbell, Bend
- Jeff Gowing, Cottage Grove
- Carol MacInnes, Fossil
- Kate McBride, Hood River
- Jason Snider, Tigard
- Beth Wytoski, Dayton ■

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State-Supported Regional Water Group Finalizing Engagement Plan

In 2021, the Oregon Legislature passed HB 5006, directing the Oregon Water Resources Department and Oregon Consensus to convene a work group that would “develop a framework and path for state-supported water planning and management at the water region and/or basin level.” The work group is directed to consider regional water planning and management opportunities that build on the *100 Year Water Vision* and further the goals of the state’s *Integrated Water Resources Strategy*. The work group should be comprised of a balanced membership, including, but not limited to: conservation groups, agricultural water users, municipal water users, environmental justice organizations, tribal interests and state agencies.

Oregon Consensus completed an initial assessment one year ago to help inform the workgroup’s process design, protocols and scope of work. Having interviewed 55 entities and 96 individuals about the state’s water resources planning and management, Oregon Consensus collected input on how to build a collaborative process. Details of the assessment and its findings can be found

in the meeting materials: https://apps.wrd.state.or.us/apps/misc/wrd_notice_view/?notice_id=70

The workgroup is using a consensus-based process to develop recommendations for a framework and path for state-supported regional water planning. The workgroup objectives are to:

- Build upon past efforts, including the 100 Year Water Vision and other Oregon regional planning processes;
- Further the goals of the Integrated Water Resources Strategy;
- Gather information from the field, experts, and each other to build shared learning;
- Document information gathering and co-learning efforts; and
- Develop, deliberate and share ideas for a state-supported regional planning and management framework.

Workgroup meetings are occurring monthly throughout 2022 and are open to the public. Past meeting recordings and written agendas can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/owrd2022>.

(continued on page 44)



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Portland (1980)

Salem (1960, 1983)

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A forthcoming engagement plan will identify opportunities for broader stakeholder and public information sharing, as well as input to the process.

If you have any questions or would like to attend a future meeting, please contact Lili Prah, OWRD Regional Planning Coordinator, at lili.k.prah@water.oregon.gov, or Robin Harkless, Oregon Consensus Senior Project Manager, at: hrobin@pdx.edu.

To review the 100 Year Water Vision: www.oregonwatervision.org

To review the Integrated Water Resources Strategy: www.oregon.gov/owrd/programs/planning/iwrs

For any WMCP concerns, please contact Tamera Smith at tamera.l.smith@water.oregon.gov or (458) 253-0597.

OWRD Announces Water Management and Conservation Plan Program Staff Changes

Tamera Smith Joined the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) in November 2016, and recently accepted a promotion to Modernization Coordinator and Conservation Analyst in the Department's Transfer and Conservation Section (TACS). Tamera's duties focus on reviewing water management and conservation plans for the conservation analyst portion of her position.

Kerri Cope has worked as the Department's Water Management and Conservation Analyst/Reuse Coordinator for the past seven years, coordinating and processing review of water management and conservation plans and registrations of reclaimed municipal water use in TACS. In July 2022, Kerri accepted a one-year job rotation to the Planning, Collaboration, and Investments (PCI) Section to serve as Coordinator for the [Water Well Abandonment, Repair, and Replacement Fund](#). While Kerri Cope is on job rotation in the PCI Section, Joan Smith is serving as the department's Water Management and Conservation Analyst/Reuse Coordinator. Joan comes to the program with many years of departmental experience, most recently evaluating and processing water right transfer applications. ■

Contact:

Tamera Smith
(458) 253-0597 or tamera.l.smith@water.oregon.gov

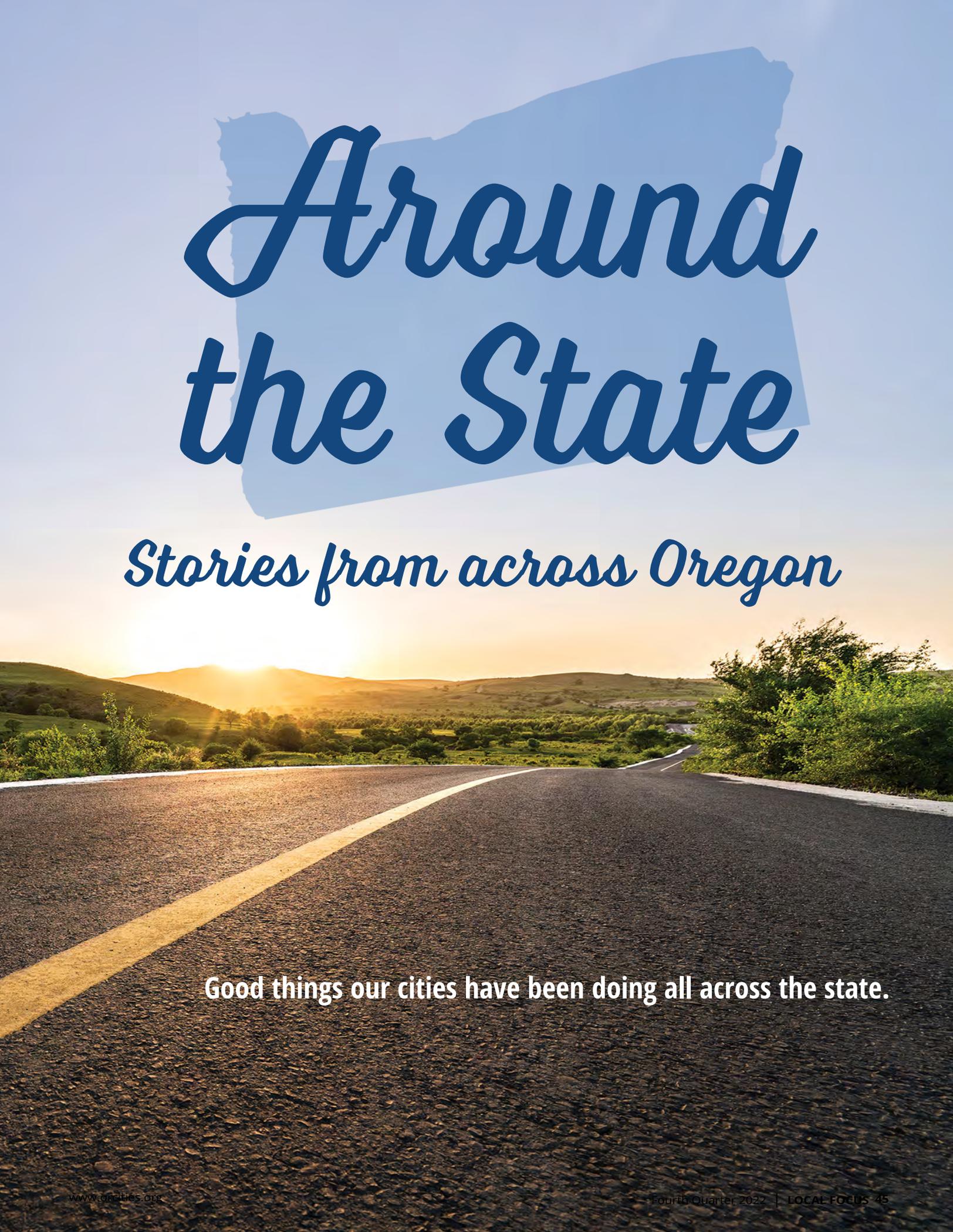
Joan Smith
(503) 986-0892 or joan.m.smith@water.oregon.gov

Lisa Jaramillo
(503) 871-1889 or lisa.j.jaramillo@water.oregon.gov

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Around the State

Stories from across Oregon

Good things our cities have been doing all across the state.

GLADSTONE

New Library

The city of Gladstone and Clackamas County are committed to enhancing public spaces by moving forward with the new Gladstone library. “Investing in social infrastructure provides a sense of place where everyone belongs,” said Gladstone City Administrator Jacque Betz. “This library is a valuable shared public space for the Gladstone community.”

In 2018, after a lengthy litigation settlement process, which resulted in Clackamas County agreeing to construct a 6,000 square foot library at the old Gladstone City Hall site, and the city of Gladstone agreeing to contribute financially to the annual operations, both entities celebrated the preparation of the site of the new Gladstone Library.

“The strength in the community is strong,” says Betz, “and good news is on the horizon for Gladstone residents and library users.”

During the COVID 19 pandemic, cost escalation for the project

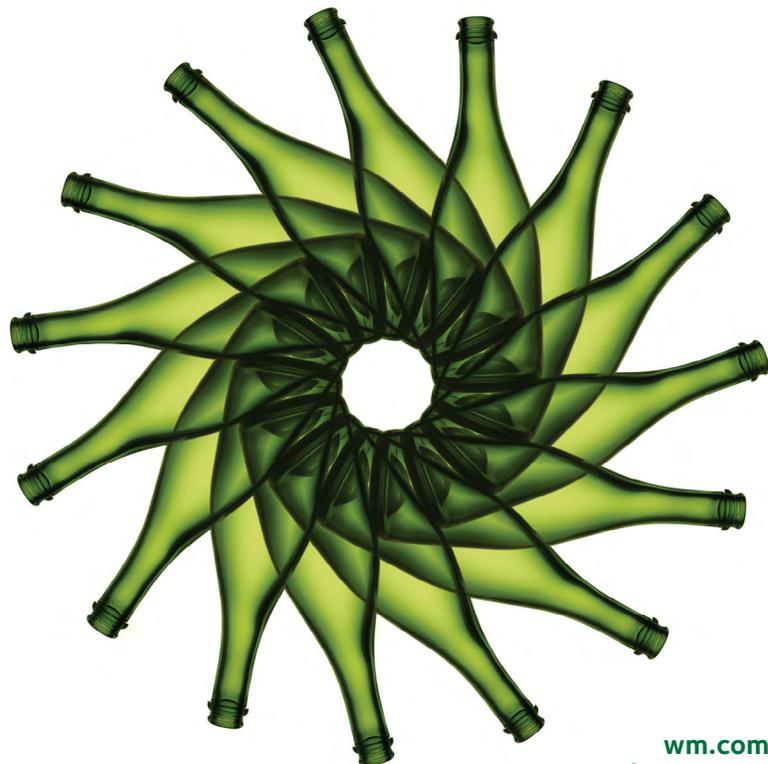


Gladstone City Council and City Administrator

went from \$7 million in November, 2021 to \$9.4 million in April, 2022. As stewards of public funds, the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners and the Gladstone City Council felt it was in the public’s best interest to delay construction of the

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new library for a year until costs stabilize and decrease. Still, Clackamas County and the city of Gladstone remain committed to advancing the project, as evidenced by:

- Proceeding with demolition of the existing structure with signage indicating it is the future site of the library;
- Completion of the construction drawings and land use design approvals; and
- Recently, the Board of Commissioners allocated \$6 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to the new Gladstone Library.

The library is the most important place in the city, as it is where individuals gather to explore, interact, and imagine. The construction of the new library will help revitalize Gladstone’s downtown by offering an attractive, functional and community-based place, creating a livable and friendly city. In addition, it comes on the heels of the completion of the Gladstone Downtown Revitalization Plan.

“We recognize that this timeline is not what the community was expecting,” said Gladstone Mayor Tammy Stempel. “We want to finish this important community project as soon as possible and will do so while also protecting and valuing limited public dollars. It is amazing what governments can achieve when we work together as a community.”



Demolition of the old library



New Gladstone City Library

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COOS BAY/NORTH BEND

Cities Partner on Public Art

A mural that shows two tug boats, representing Coos Bay and North Bend working together to move a boat, transformed an aging, gray wall into public art that draws the attention of visitors traveling along Highway 101. The mural is part of an effort to replace decrepit old structures with public art throughout Coos Bay, led by the Coos Bay Urban Renewal Agency.

“It was funded through urban renewal dollars. That’s a perfect way to take care of our blight the city has,” Stephanie Kilmer, Coos Bay councilor and president of the Urban Renewal Agency told *The World*.

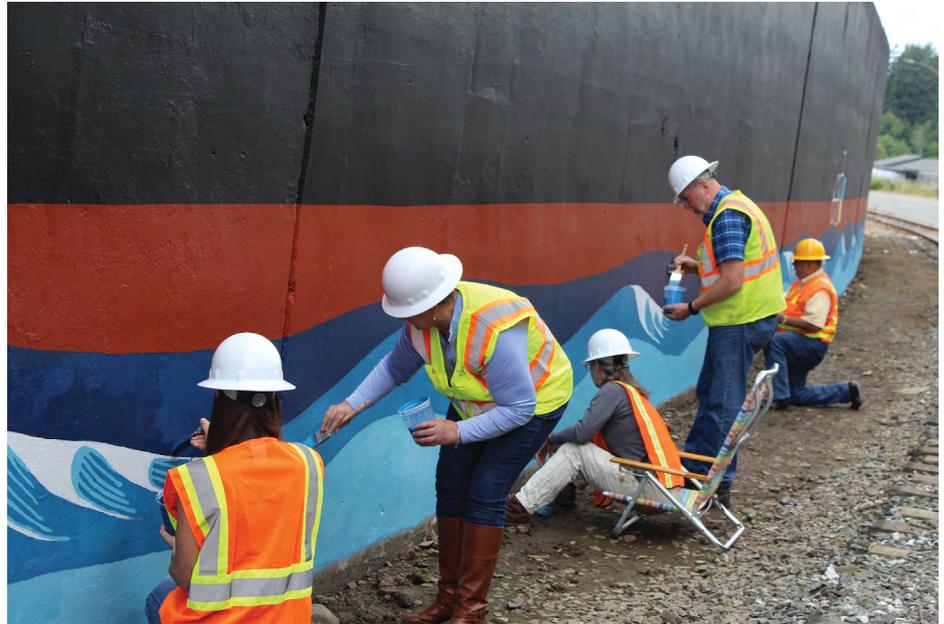
Mural artist Mike Vaughan said he came up with the idea after seeing the blank wall year after year. It was built in the 1930s, when Chevron used it as a fuel storage area. He said he wanted to come up with art that ties Coos Bay and North Bend together while symbolizing the industrial sector of the community.

Vaughan said he tried to include an Asian influence because of the Asian impact on the industrial sector in the region. He said the white caps in the mural represent an Asian artist who painted in that style hundreds of years ago.

In order to finish the mural on time over the summer, Vaughan invited both city councils to assist. Kilmer was joined by North Bend Mayor Jessica Engelke and Councilors Susanna Noordhoff and Timm Slater, along with Coos Bay City Manager Rodger Craddock and North Bend City Administrator David Milliron.

While the mural is in Coos Bay, it is centered right at the city limits between Coos Bay and North Bend. Engelke said she and the council wanted to help finish the project because it benefits both cities.

“We were invited by the Coos Bay City Council to be a part of this,” she told *The World*. “We think it symbolizes so many things we are trying to do together. This whole project symbolizes the collaboration both cities are doing. We’re each individual and unique, but we’re one community.”



Coos Bay and North Bend city council members came together to help finish a mural being painted near the city line on Highway 101. From left, North Bend Mayor Jessica Engelke, Coos Bay Councilor Stephanie Kilmer, North Bend Councilor Susanna Noordhoff, Coos Bay City Manager Rodger Craddock and North Bend Councilor Timm Slater. *Photo by David Rupkalvis/The World*



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AMITY & DAYVILLE

USDA Awards for Water Infrastructure

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development is investing more than \$6 million to improve critical water infrastructure and secure clean drinking water in Amity.

“Many of Oregon’s small, rural communities face significant barriers to funding critical water infrastructure projects,” said Margi Hoffmann, the program’s director for Oregon. “The need is clear, but often the money simply isn’t there. USDA Rural Development’s investments are a lifeline for the dedicated officials working tirelessly to maintain clean drinking water and safe wastewater for rural Oregonians.”

Amity is receiving a loan of \$4,838,000 and a grant of \$1,500,000 through the Water and Waste Disposal Loans and Grants program to improve the city’s water intake, wells, pipelines and pumps. This will improve the reliability of the city’s drinking water source.

The funds also will contribute to the renovation and refurbishment of the city’s water treatment facility to ensure system capacity meets the Oregon Health Authority’s quality standards and produces enough water to meet current and future demand. These water infrastructure projects are projected to benefit at least 1,614 Oregonians in the surrounding area.

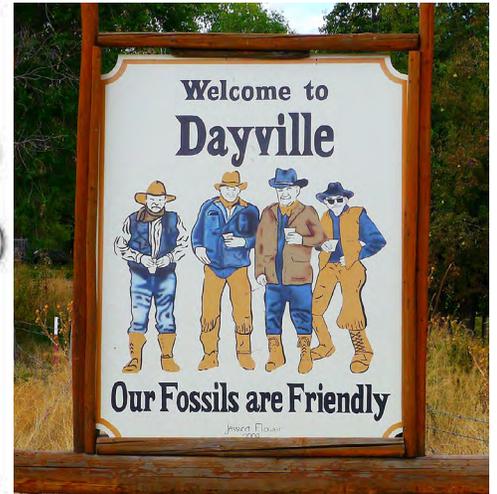
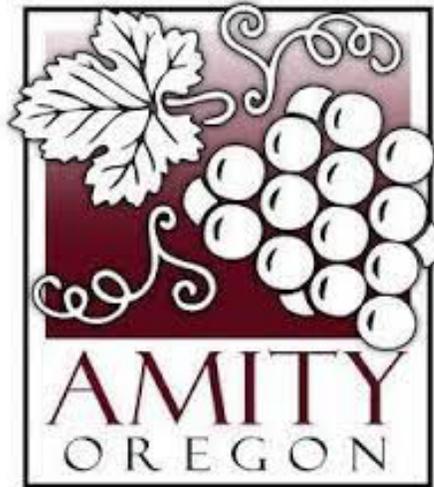
USDA Rural Development Oregon also announced a grant of \$32,000 to assist with the construction of a new fire station in the rural town of Dayville through the Community Facilities Direct Loans and Grants program.

When the fire station was damaged beyond repair and condemned in July 2021, several bids came in too high for the city’s available funding. This grant will allow the city to cover additional construction costs.

The new fire station will be built in the same location as the previous one and will be slightly bigger. It will have three bay doors, an ADA unisex bathroom, and a small meeting room. It will be built to state standards for essential buildings within a community, including its ability to withstand natural hazards.

The funding is contingent upon the recipients meeting the terms of the loan and grant agreements.

USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to expand economic opportunities and create jobs in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care facilities; and high-speed internet access. To learn more, visit www.rd.usda.gov/or.



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FOREST GROVE

Events Highlight 150 Years

The city of Forest Grove is celebrating its 150th anniversary with a year of events that wrap up with the Verboort 88th Sausage and Kraut Festival in November and Holidays in the Grove in December.

The festivities kicked off last January with Ralph's Run & Breakfast in honor of Ralph Brown, former Cornelius mayor, school administrator, city councilor and school board member. Other events featuring wine tastings, live music, food carts, farmers markets, a pickleball tournament, a scavenger hunt, and seasonal festivals were held throughout the year.

In addition, Forest Grove marked the 100th Grand Lodge Birthday, Pacific University's 61st Lu'au & Ho'ike, the 48th Concours d'Elegance show and the annual Oktoberfest. The city also unveiled four new murals and tours of its downtown artwork.

The earliest inhabitants of Forest Grove were the Tualatin Indians, and the Tualatin Academy was chartered by the Territorial Government in 1848. Pacific University was added to that charter in 1854.

The West Tualatin Plains became Forest Grove in 1851 and it was officially incorporated on Oct. 5, 1872. Many houses and



buildings from those early years remain, and Forest Grove boasts four National Register Districts and other structures individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



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SPRINGFIELD

Streetlight LED Upgrade Underway

Springfield is taking a major step forward in its efforts to replace outdated streetlights throughout the city with light emitting diode (LED) fixtures. This lighting is up to 70% more energy efficient, lasts four to five times longer, and allows for better control of light output than the existing high-intensity discharge lighting.

The funding for this project was received from the American Rescue Plan Act passed in 2021 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The city has been replacing its 4,557 streetlights with LED lights in phases as light fixtures reached end of life and money became available. When federal funding arrived, the city began replacing the remaining 3,124 lights immediately.

An audit was held to verify the number of fixtures and equipment required to complete the project. Installation is planned for the first half of 2023.

“We regularly hear from citizens about things they like and things they don’t like, and lighting occasionally comes up as one of those things,” Scott Miller, traffic operations engineer, told the KEZI news channel. “We’ve been kind of organically replacing some street lights as they fail, and I think it’s kind of exciting to see this old aging infrastructure that’s going to be completely modernized.”



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WILSONVILLE

“Walk Friendly” City Recognized

Wilsonville has been honored as one of 23 cities and towns across the United States to be designated “Walk Friendly” in 2022.

It is the third time the national Walk Friendly Communities (WFC) program has recognized the city’s work to prioritize pedestrians and create safe and inviting places to walk. It first earned the designation in 2011 and a second time in 2016 as a bronze-level Walk Friendly Community. The designation remains valid for a five-year period.

“Sustaining this designation for more than a decade is a substantial achievement,” said Wilsonville Community Development Director Chris Neamtzu. “It’s reflective of a long-held commitment to prioritize pedestrian safety and mobility. Walkable communities are more desirable places to live and work.”

The program recognized four gold-level, four silver-level and 13 bronze-level recipients. The recognition follows a detailed review of each community’s sustained efforts to elevate the needs of pedestrians across all areas of transportation programming.

The WFC program was established to encourage cities and towns across the country to develop and support walking environments with an emphasis on safety, mobility, access and comfort. Managed



by the University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center, the program distinguishes communities leading the way in walkability and seeks to share their stories to inspire other communities to move toward their own innovative solutions.

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ROSEBURG

City Celebrates Sesquicentennial

Roseburg threw a blowout birthday celebration last month, marking its 150th anniversary with 150 sesquicentennial events to honor the city's past, celebrate its present and look to building its future. Roseburg was incorporated on Oct. 3, 1872.

The celebration kicked off with a 5K fun run/walk and family friendly party in the park. The party featured live entertainment, food trucks, cake and Umpqua Dairy ice cream, a giant birthday card for guests to sign, and a time capsule where people could leave personal wishes for the city's future.

The celebration also honored the area's original inhabitants, including the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, who discovered the Umpqua Valley.

Other events included an inaugural Blocktoberfest downtown that highlighted historic buildings, local breweries and wineries, food trucks, live music and entertainment. NeighborWorks Umpqua presented the event. The Roseburg Elks Lodge hosted a series of spaghetti dinners and tours of its 115-year-old lodge.

Ghosts of Roseburg Past was a self-guided walking tour of downtown that introduced people to fascinating characters from Roseburg's past. The month concluded with the Roseburg 150 Neewollah Parade.

Other Roseburg 150 activities in the works include a Youth Voice project to be carried out over the year ahead and conclude with a published catalogue, multiple public art projects and a community-wide call to action for 150 acts of volunteerism in the coming months. Businesses and nonprofits also can plan and host other events with the support of the Roseburg 150 Planning Committee.

"We're thrilled to be celebrating this moment in time with our community," City Councilor Shelley Briggs Loosely told the KCBY news channel. "Roseburg has a bright future ahead, and



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Email us your copy (500 words max.) detailing your city's notable achievement (i.e., a project, initiative, award or individual honor), preferably with an image. Contact: Kevin Toon, ktoon@orcities.org



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The Roseburg Sesquicentennial Time Capsule includes a range of items contributed by diverse community organizations, the city, the county and Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians.

this is the time to celebrate the strong foundation that has been laid over the past 150 years.”

Briggs Loosely co-chairs the Roseburg 150 Planning Committee with Sarah Holborow, who said it was an honor to be involved in the planning efforts for the celebration. “It’s our hope that this moment connects everyone – our friends, neighbors, business owners, local youth – and ignites our pride and community spirit that lasts for another 150 years.”



City Manager Nikki Messenger and Assistant City Manager Amy Sowa with the restored city founder Aaron Rose cutout.



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