

Summer Festivals

Cities Gear Up for Fun and Tradition



Chief Joseph Days in Joseph

Photo by Sarah B. Anderson Photography

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE
Legislative Wins for Cities
Her Own Wings Podcast
LOC Annual Conference



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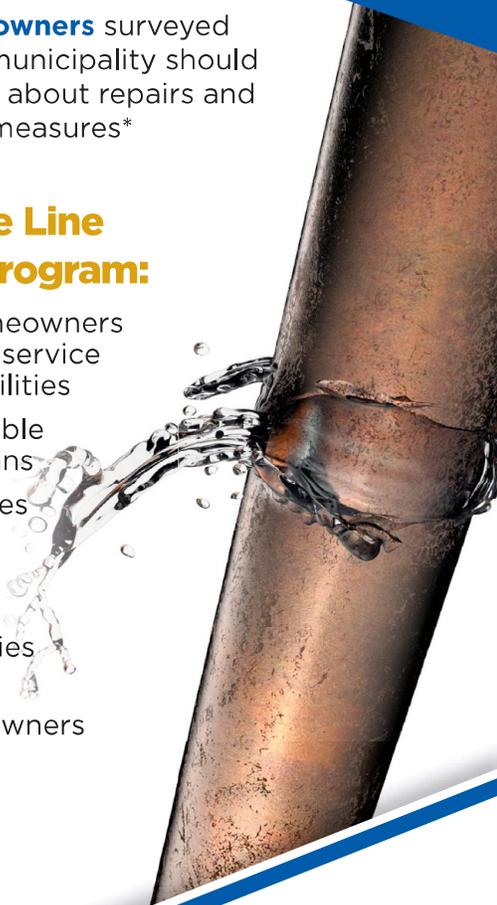
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Running on Empty – Facing a Revenue Crisis

When I first joined the LOC Board of Directors in 2018, I told my colleagues from around the state that our cities were “heading towards a cliff” when it came to maintaining financial stability and providing services to residents. Today, as your LOC President, I can tell you that the narrative has changed, but not for the better. Cities are now “plummeting off the cliff” and into financial crisis.

Throughout this year, I’m hosting a President’s Regional Meeting in each of the LOC’s 12 regions. The focus is on hearing from you, my fellow city leaders and members of the LOC, about the fiscal challenges you’re facing. Specifically, I want to hear about your revenue challenges, as well as any potential barriers you’re facing that prevent your city from having stable revenue sources.

At the time of this writing, five meetings have been held, hosted by the cities of Dufur, Fossil, Sumpter, La Grande and St. Helens. Attendance has been great, and the feedback has been informative and insightful—cities have consistently told us that revenue shortages are a harsh reality, and they are unable to provide the services their residents need and demand.

For the majority of cities across the state, property taxes remain the primary source of consistent revenue to fund basic and needed services. Unfortunately, Oregon’s current property tax structure does not provide enough funding for cities to meet even the most essential needs of its residents and business owners.

Here is just a small sample of some of the notable feedback we’ve received thus far at the Regional Meetings—in each case, the city has indicated that its expenditures exceed its revenues:

- “This is particularly true when it comes to road maintenance and transportation needs. The funding gaps to maintain and improve roads are substantial. The gas tax collected in the city for the last several years was only sufficient enough to pay for two curb ramp replacements—gas taxes will not alleviate this problem.”
- “There is no saving for future needs in our city. We are financially required to wait until something breaks and then do our best to locate limited funds to fix or replace the item. Wages for employees, particularly within the fire department, are not competitive, which results in vacant positions or high turnover. Additionally, inflationary costs have proven highly problematic.”
- “The only way we could balance our budget this fiscal cycle was by selling off an excess parcel of land the city owns. The sale of the property will balance the budget for this year, but this approach will not be sustainable in the long term.”
- “Our expenditures exceed revenue, and this is for a city with a 14% fund balance. We are considering adding a fee for police and the library; if the council does not pass the fee, the city will be facing layoffs.”

- “Expenditures in the general fund exceed revenue sources. This upcoming fiscal year the city is facing a \$1.4 - \$1.6 million budget deficit. We will utilize existing reserves to balance the budget this year, but current projections indicate that at the current pace, reserves will expire in five years.”



Dave Drotzmann
LOC President; Mayor,
Hermiston

And this is just a small sample—we still have several more regions to meet with between now and the end of the year.

So, after reading those comments, you may be asking—how is the LOC going to confront this financial crisis?

Well, I’m excited to announce that with the approval of the board of directors, the LOC has contracted with Sound & Vision, a highly regarded consulting firm that will lead a multi-year initiative aimed at reviewing revenue options for cities. LOC Tax and Finance Lobbyist Lindsay Tenes is the point person for this project and has worked with Sound & Vision to create an internal work plan to make sure the project stays on track and on budget. In addition, LOC staff has created a member advisory committee to help ensure cities’ voices are properly considered during this project. This 15-member committee includes representation from all regions of the state, cities of various sizes, elected officials, and city staff.

When it comes to Oregon’s tax system and its impact on the financial health and stability of our 241 cities, change is long overdue. The LOC is making an unprecedented investment in this revenue reform initiative and your board of directors is laser-focused on achieving lasting change that will dramatically improve our ability to serve our residents.

I want to thank the cities that have attended our President’s Regional Meetings so far and provided their feedback. In addition, I look forward to hearing from the rest of you in the coming months.

At the League

From the Executive Director

Partnerships & Persistence Prevail

Partnerships and persistence prevailed during the 2024 short legislative session, bringing Oregon cities much needed wins. Of the legislative achievements reached, five rise to the top. These victories are directly attributable to strong partnerships and a relentless persistence to ensure Oregon's communities are strong.

Measure 110 Reforms

Meaningful and measurable changes to Measure 110 were achieved this year. The passage of House Bill 4002 restored accountability, while simultaneously funding addiction treatment. HB 4002 becoming law is a direct result of the partnership between the LOC, the Association of Chiefs of Police, the Oregon State Sheriffs Association, and the Oregon District Attorneys Association. These four organizations, along with their respective members, formed a cohesive coalition which created a package of reforms that would foundationally improve local communities while simultaneously helping the most vulnerable members of the population. Despite concerns, opposition, and setbacks, the undaunting persistence of the LOC and its three partners resulted in the following reforms:

- Recriminalization of the possession and use of small amounts of hard drugs;
- Permitting treatment facilities to hold intoxicated persons for 72 hours instead of 48;

- Rectified an adverse court ruling that made it difficult to prosecute drug dealing;
- Created enhanced sentencing for dealing drugs to vulnerable populations; and
- Appropriated money to a grant program in the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission for counties to create deflection programs.



Patty Mulvihill
LOC Executive Director

Recreational Immunity

Restoring recreational immunity allows cities to re-open their trails and parks to recreational opportunities. With the passage of Senate Bill 1576, Oregon's recreational immunity statute now defines recreational purposes to include running, walking, and cycling. The restoration of this immunity is the direct result of cities, counties, special districts, recreational enthusiasts, and state legislators coming together to declare that, in Oregon, public lands and the ability to access them are sacrosanct. While Oregonians are proud supporters of recreational immunity, the statute itself has been the subject of consistent attack over the years. Fortunately,

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the LOC and its partners have been persistent in its defense and will take that persistence into the 2025 legislative session to secure a more durable solution to ensure city recreational facilities can remain open without fear of liability.

Housing Infrastructure

More than \$100 million in revenue was secured to provide shelter gap funding and direct infrastructure investments to aid in the production of needed housing. Senate Bill 1530 appropriated \$65 million to keep existing homelessness shelters open, while simultaneously providing more than \$90 million in direct grants to cities for site-specific infrastructure investments to support needed housing. Addressing Oregon's dual crises of homelessness and housing shortages requires a collaborative partnership between cities, counties, and the state of Oregon – a partnership that must remain steadfast.

Urban Growth Boundaries

Local decisions surrounding urban growth boundaries were protected this year. The enactment of House Bill 4026 clarified that local urban growth boundary expansion decisions are not eligible to be referred to the ballot by petition and are reviewable exclusively by the Oregon Land Conservation and Development Commission through the established state land use system. This bill had strong bipartisan support, and was championed by the LOC, its member cities, and a host of partners. Cities directly impacted by a lack of clarity in the current statute tenaciously sought resolution through this bill—ensuring that the thoughtful, transparent, and open dialogues that happen at the local level, regarding local land use matters, remain protected.

Photo Radar

Each city in Oregon, not just a select few, now have access to photo speed radar, bringing needed community safety technology to communities across the state. House Bill 4109 clarifies that all cities in Oregon have authority to add mobile and fixed photo radar to their community safety toolbelts. Achieving this important public safety tool for cities has been an arduous process, with discussions and negotiations to achieve this win occurring over the course of more than five legislative sessions. But through persistence, the LOC and its partners were able to secure this victory for cities.

The LOC is, and always will be, a strong advocate for and defender of Oregon cities. The LOC practices collaboration and cooperation, forming partnerships that result in meaningful legislative reforms that better local communities. The 2024 legislative session exemplifies what the LOC, and its 241 member cities, can achieve when they partner together on common solutions and persistently pursue those solutions.

Our formula for success includes our grassroots support from communities across Oregon. You help put face on the issues, and your relationships with legislators remain critical. For those city officials who testified during legislative hearings, sent emails to representatives and senators, participated in legislative committee meetings, made phone calls to legislative staff, and championed LOC priorities—thank you. To the LOC lobbying team—Jim, Ariel, Lindsay, Michael, Nolan, and Scott—thank you.



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2024 Short Session: Big Wins and Significant Progress on City Priorities

By Jim McCauley, LOC Legislative Director

The 2024 legislative session ended three days early, just a few minutes past 9 p.m. on Thursday, March 7, as final votes were taken on budget bills. The LOC’s priorities included Measure 110 reforms, several layers of housing policy, gap funding for shelters, and infrastructure funding for new housing development.

It’s evident that a combination of member-led grassroots advocacy and the excellent work of the LOC’s lobby team and partners resulted in substantial progress in 2024.

Significant Measure 110 reforms are now in place, largely because of a coalition of public safety interests, led by the LOC. For the first time, the Legislature allocated nearly \$200 million from the state’s general fund to local infrastructure needs for new housing starts and \$65 million to keep existing shelters open, thanks to

a pre-session LOC member survey that generated 234 projects from 93 cities. Finally, recreational immunity was restored after an adverse court session, which had resulted in multiple trail closures.

The LOC lobby team also helped stop several poorly thought-out property tax measures that would have contributed to an already unfair and outdated property tax system needing serious reform. The League also stopped a pre-session legislative concept that would have preempted the local government franchise fee structure. Other wins included a fix for the use of photo radar and an improved broadband grant program.

There is considerable work to do in the interim as we prepare for the 2025 session and ensure commitments are met. It’s crucial to remain focused on what lies ahead because we are not done.

(continued on page 10)



Top 5 Legislative Wins for Cities in 2024



MEASURE 110

LOC’s leadership contributed to restored accountability of Measure 110 and funding for addiction treatment.



RECREATIONAL IMMUNITY

Trails can re-open and cities’ ability to provide recreational opportunities without fear of liability restored.



HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE

LOC secured \$65 million for shelter gap funding, and \$100 million for local government housing infrastructure.



URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARIES

LOC protected local decision-making authority against frivolous land use appeals.



PHOTO RADAR

All cities have access to a proven community safety technology – photo speed radar.

What Members Are Saying About Session Wins

Measure 110 Reform

Alex Johnson II, Mayor, Albany



"HB 4002 brings an element of accountability to this issue of drug addiction. The bill is a very good first step. Measure 110 wasn't implemented in a manner that made sense for our communities statewide, and these illicit drugs can take people's lives away in a matter of minutes. Drugs in general have been a very harmful thing for my family, my community and my extended family. In Albany, we're seeing seniors who are using illicit drugs because they can't afford their medications, and I want to get it out of my community. It's a fight I'm willing to fight.

Having the LOC support this legislation was huge. We came together as communities across the state to impact positively the people who live here. This issue hurts not only those who are using drugs, but also the people around them and the overall community. Having the League drive this initiative was invaluable."

UGB Expansion

Teri Lenahan, Mayor, North Plains



"When I started to talk to other mayors around the state about this as a home rule issue, we saw a bigger potential problem for other cities. There were other cities looking at a UGB expansion, but they were waiting to see what happened in North Plains first. We decided we needed to get the LOC on board and have a bigger conversation, because a lot of cities just don't have the necessary budgets for litigation and lobbyists. We asked the LOC, 'How can you help us? We're not looking to change a law, but we are looking for clarification in the language of the bill to ensure all cities are protected down the road and that a UGB expansion is properly recognized as an administrative process and not referable to voters.'

When the home rule door opened, the LOC was there to help. The League was also extremely pivotal and influential in talking to legislators on behalf of those cities that didn't have individual lobbyists in Salem. Even before HB 4026 ultimately passed, it had bipartisan support, the governor's office supported it, and all parties felt it made sense. Moving forward, cities that are looking at UGB expansion should now have some confidence in the process working out the way it's supposed to."

Recreational Immunity

Henry Balensifer, Mayor, Warrenton



"Not every city has the resources to have a lobbying team, especially small cities. So having access to LOC staff to explain the issue and its nuances, while at the same time providing a unified position which allowed us to avoid having go it alone, was invaluable. Several coastal communities had to shut down their trails or block access to their recreational amenities, and the LOC gave us both a rallying point and the staff support to help craft the proposal for the short session. The work of the LOC's advocacy team gave cities a belief that we could come together on this issue with one voice. This was critical in energizing both the city of Warrenton and the Coastal Mayors Coalition."

2024 SESSION WINS

The LOC’s policy committees have begun their meetings, state agencies will be gearing up to figure out how the housing infrastructure and shelter funding will be pushed out, and there will be a significant transportation package in 2025.

This session’s most important take-home message is that the LOC’s grassroots advocacy is working because of persistent engagement and advocacy from cities. During the interim, cities must reinforce their legislative partners, build on local government education, and let their state legislators know how much they appreciate their support.

The LOC appreciates every member’s support and commitment to our collective legislative work—we’ve done well!

End of Session Resources

The following resources can be found on the Legislative Advocacy page of the LOC website: orcities.org.

- [Comprehensive 2024 Legislative Session Bill Summary](#)
- [Legislative Session Wrap-Up Webinar](#)

Contact: Jim McCauley, Legislative Director – jmccauley@orcities.org

Honor Roll – LOC Members Who Made a Difference

The League’s success during the 2024 short session would not have been possible without the stellar leadership from several members who stepped up their advocacy efforts and developed critical relationships with state legislators. Members answered the call every time and were able to: testify in support of and opposition to specific bills; provide public endorsements; help generate media coverage on key issues; and meet one-on-one with their legislators to tell our story. The LOC wants to recognize and offer a special thanks to the following city leaders who stood out and made a difference:

HB 4134 – Housing Infrastructure

- McMinnville Mayor Remy Drabkin
- McMinnville Community Development Director Heather Richards

HB 4075 – Wildfire Property Tax Bill

- Keizer Mayor Cathy Clark

SB 1530 – Water Infrastructure for Housing

- Sandy Mayor Stan Pulliam
- Gresham Mayor Travis Stovall
- Gresham City Manager Eric Schmidt
- Gold Hill City Manager Lily Morgan
- Stayton Mayor Brian Quigley

HB 4002 – Measure 110 Reform

- Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler
- Albany Mayor Alex Johnson II
- Pendleton City Manager Robb Corbett
- Albany City Manager Peter Troedsson
- McMinnville Mayor Remy Drabkin
- McMinnville Police Chief Matt Scales
- Beaverton Judge Hon. Juliet Britton
- Tigard Mayor Heidi Lueb
- Hillsboro Mayor Steve Calloway
- Hermiston Mayor Dave Drotzmann

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99TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 17-19 • RIVERHOUSE, BEND



Plan Now to Attend the 99th Annual Conference!

Don't miss out on the LOC's premier training and networking event for city officials. The 99th LOC Annual Conference will be held October 17-19 at the The Riverhouse in Bend.

Budget Now to Attend the Annual Conference

Here are estimates cities can use in their FY 2024-25 budget process to plan for registration and event costs.

Estimated costs per attendee	If registered July 24 – Sept. 13	If registered after Sept. 13
LOC Member full registration	\$475	\$525
LOC Business Partners/Associates	\$550	\$600
Non-Member Government	\$600	\$650
Non-Member Corporate	\$1,300	\$1,350
Awards Dinner	\$60	\$60
Special Tours/Workshops/ Seminars (includes OMA, OCCMA, Councilors Workshop and Tours)	\$50-200	\$50-200

For Your City's Calendar

May

Award Nominations Open – watch the *LOC Bulletin* every Friday for information on how to submit an entry for one of our prestigious awards.

June

The application period for conference scholarships opens June 14. Watch the *LOC Bulletin* and the conference webpage for more information on how to apply for financial assistance.

July

Registration and hotel reservations open July 24. Watch the *LOC Bulletin* and the conference webpage for more information on how to register and reserve your hotel room, along with other conference details.

October

See you at the conference!

City Leaders Advocate in Washington, D.C.

A contingent of nearly 50 LOC members from across the state and more than 30 youth delegates representing the cities of Hillsboro, Lake Oswego, Happy Valley, Tualatin, and Tigard converged on the U.S. Capitol in March for a full legislative agenda at this year's Congressional City Conference, hosted by the National League of Cities (NLC). With the help of scholarship funding from PGE, youth delegates were provided financial assistance to make the trip and learn from peers across the country about city government, the federal legislative process, and a range of perspectives on the issues facing cities. The LOC also provided financial support this year to members, so city officials from all 12 regions of the state were in attendance.

City leaders and youth delegates met with Oregon's Congressional delegation during the event. The focus of these discussions included: protecting federal funding of infrastructure projects; affordable housing and housing stability; broadband investments and data challenges; and FEMA rules impacting development options in floodplains.

LOC members had a great showing in D.C. and represented the voices of small and large communities and those from urban and rural cities. As with any event, the LOC does its best to provide members with a unique and enjoyable experience. That said, there are always avenues for improvement. Members of the League's Intergovernmental Relations Department and Executive Director Patty Mulvihill are currently conducting an analysis of the Congressional Cities Conference, identifying what worked well at the event, as well as areas where improvements can be made.

Moving forward, part of our ongoing advocacy must sustain our focus on relationship building with Oregon's members of Congress. This means that as community leaders, attending town halls that are sponsored by your member of Congress will help drive home the message from your community. Be sure to check the websites of your congressional leaders for updates on town halls, and maintain contact with the field staff from congressional offices, as they are the gate keepers.



Why Should City Leaders Attend the Congressional Cities Conference?

Central Point Councilor Tanea Browning



"As a city leader, I make time each year for this event. Building ongoing relationships with our congressional delegation and sharing experiences and lessons learned with our fellow city officials from across the country brings extensive benefits back to my community. I would encourage anyone in elected positions to invest in relationships across the aisle and across the country."

Happy Valley Councilor David Emami



"This conference is especially beneficial for elected officials who really want to make a difference in their communities. We kind of live in our own bubble here in Oregon, but when we expand our horizons and start to see what challenges other cities go through across the country, I think that allows us the opportunity to learn from their experiences, and make our communities even better."

Sherwood Mayor Tim Rosener



"In Oregon, we have a specific way that we are regulated, and that means we have very specific ways we do things that are ingrained. But often after I talk to city officials from around the country at an event like NLC, I start thinking, "Oh, that's a good idea - we've never thought about that here in Oregon." So I think the networking available at this event is a huge benefit."



Klamath Falls Hosts LOC Spring Conference

On April 25-26, the LOC hosted its fourth successful Local Government Spring Conference, this time in the beautiful and scenic surroundings of the Klamath Basin and the Running Y Resort.

During the two-day event, 15 training workshops were offered, and topics included: infrastructure funding; housing and homelessness; public safety; mental health; diversity, equity, and inclusion; city-state partnerships; wildfire response; and funding and grant opportunities. Initial feedback from conference attendees described the overall event as “relevant,” “well organized,” “well worth the drive,” “informative,” “awesome,” and “engaging.”

Networking opportunities were sprinkled throughout the agenda, highlighted by Thursday evening’s networking reception and a mixer hosted by the LOC Women’s Caucus and People of Color Caucus.

Thursday’s keynote featured Marion County Sheriff Nick Hunter on “Policing with Compassion During the Addiction Crisis.” Sheriff Hunter spotlighted the county’s Law Enforcement Assisted Deflection (LEAD) program, which gives officers and prosecutors a tool to vector a person suffering from addiction towards treatment and recovery and away from incarceration.

For the LOC members, guest speakers, generous sponsors, vendors, and guests who attended the Klamath Falls Spring Conference, your LOC staff sends its sincerest thanks for an awesome event. And to those of you who could not join us in southern Oregon, we hope to see you in Bend for the 99th Annual LOC Conference in October.





THANK YOU Spring Conference Sponsors



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City Deadline Calendar

Important statutory deadlines cities need to know

MAY

May 21:

Election Day: Special

Note: Double majority rules apply for property tax measures.

May 28:

Budget: File List of Public Improvements with Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI)

No less than 30 days prior to adopting a budget, cities must submit to BOLI a list of every public improvement the city plans to fund in its budget period. The required WH-118 form, which lists all the information that cities must provide, is available from BOLI at www.oregon.gov/boli/WHD/PWR/Pages/PWR_Forms_Directory.aspx.

Note: Depending upon a city's size and total budget, the budget process may begin sooner or later than noted. This budget deadline is therefore suggested, not statutory. As stated, however, the city must file this list no less than 30 days prior to adopting its budget.

JUNE

June 23:

Budget: Adopt Budget by June 30, Make Appropriations, Levy and Categorize Taxes

Budget. After the budget hearing and before June 30, each city must enact the resolutions and ordinances necessary to do the following: (1) adopt a budget, (2) make appropriations, and (3) levy and categorize any property taxes.

State Shared Revenues. Cities may only receive state shared revenues by electing to receive them. We recommend enacting such a resolution during the meeting to adopt the budget. Cities must submit to the Department of Administrative Services documentation certifying compliance with state law and the city's intent to receive tax revenues by July 31.

Note: Although the budget process may begin sooner or later than recommended here, all budget resolutions or ordinances must be adopted by June 30.

June 27:

August Election: File Statements of Offices, Candidates and Measures with County

City elections filing officer must file no later than the 61st day before the date of the election. Thursday, June 27, is this year's deadline to file as it is 61 days before the August 27 election.

June 30:

Budget Deadline

Reminder: Deposit Construction Tax Revenues

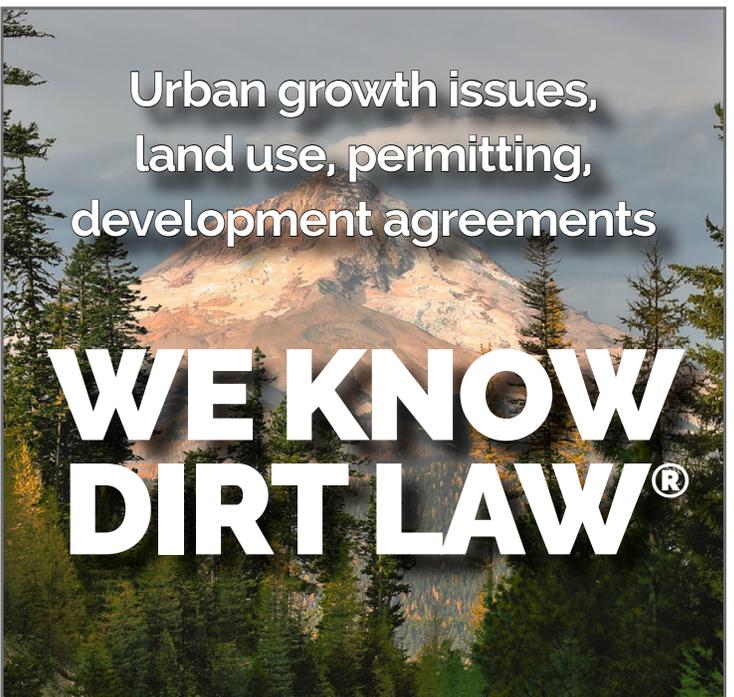
As soon as practicable after the end of each calendar quarter, cities that impose a construction tax pursuant to ORS 320.192 shall deposit the construction tax revenues collected in the calendar quarter just ended in the general fund of the city. (ORS 320.195.)

Reminder: Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) Reports

City must remit a regular report to PERS Board no later than three business days after the end of the city's pay cycle. (ORS 238.705; OAR 459-070-0100.)

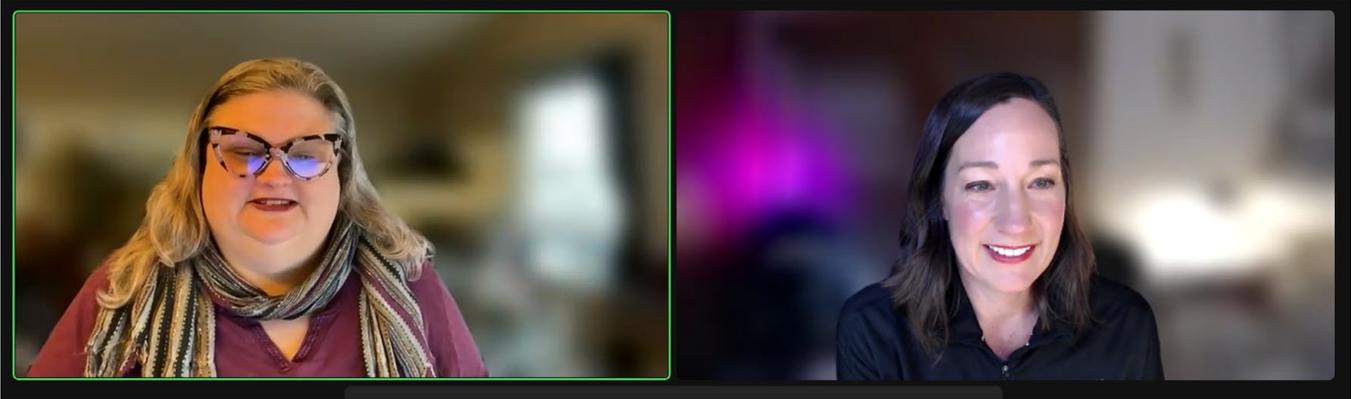
Download the full 2024 deadline calendar

The complete calendar is available on the [LOC website](#) under Resources, then Reference Materials.



JORDAN RAMIS

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Host CM Hall (left) interviews North Bend Mayor Jessica Engelke for the “Her Own Wings” podcast.



‘Her Own Wings’ Podcast Celebrates Women in Leadership, Encourages Newcomers

Newport City Council President CM Hall was so inspired by what the LOC’s Women’s Caucus was accomplishing, she created a podcast, “Her Own Wings,” that highlights women in leadership across the state.

“Traditionally we know that more men have stepped up into these leadership roles, and we really wanted to embrace and support women who are serving in these positions,” said Hall, who launched the podcast on Feb. 14 because it is Oregon’s birthday. “The inspiration was knowing that the Women’s Caucus has really been working to make sure that women feel like they have a space and a place within the political spectrum.”

With a similar format from week to week, Hall asks participants to share how they became interested in working in local government and what self-identities are meaningful to them in their elected leadership role.

“It could be that their identity is the first Latina to serve in an elected position in their community or their identity is a lesbian, a veteran or a lifelong resident of their community,” Hall said. “I think it’s meaningful to see what people think about their identities and how they are represented in their community,” she said.

Podcast guests are asked to describe their accomplishments and explain what they wish the public understood about their job. As an example, many people who serve as elected leaders outside of metropolitan areas are volunteers who are not paid for their work, and it is essential to let the public know that the administrative staffs in those cities are the people managing daily operations.

Councilor Hall said she also likes to ask participants what they know now that they wish they had known when they started their elected work. She asks them about their political mentors and

trusted advisors, and what advice they received that has helped them. She also asks what advice they have for somebody thinking about running for office.

With elected positions that are often unpaid, it can be a challenge to attract potential leaders who may already have full-time jobs and families with small children, among many other priorities demanding time and attention. So, Hall poses the question they might ask: Why should they consider taking on a public role as well?

“There also is a ‘I don’t know if I know enough’ sentiment, so we talk about how to help prepare someone who is running,” she said. “I can say I’m a better city councilor today than I was five years ago because I gained that knowledge along the way. So why not you and why not now?”

Councilor Hall also likes to delve into lighter topics such as her guests’ favorite podcasts, books they would recommend, and music and movies they enjoy. To date, her only non-elected guest has been LOC Executive Director Patty Mulvihill, but she hopes to include more in the coming months.

Hall thought “Her Own Wings” would be a great collaboration with the Women’s Caucus and its work to ensure that women are seen, have a voice and know they have support through the LOC’s networking resources. She announced the idea during the LOC’s Annual Conference last October.

“I was really grateful that they totally saw it, too. I wouldn’t be able to do this without the League of Oregon Cities’ support,” she said.

Listen to the podcast on the [LOC Women’s Caucus page](#), Apple Podcasts or Spotify. ■

An Academy of Their Own

By Kelly Hart, Lebanon Community Development Director

In the world of sports, the iconic film “A League of Their Own” depicted the resilience and determination of women in professional baseball during World War II. Fast forward to the present day, and a similar spirit is alive in the Northwest Women’s Leadership Academy (NWWLA), a program dedicated to nurturing and empowering women to take the helm in local government. This leadership training and mentorship program shares striking similarities with the professional women’s baseball league portrayed in the movie, creating a powerful analogy for these women’s transformative journeys.

Spring Training for Leadership

Just as baseball players undergo rigorous spring training to hone their skills and prepare for the season ahead, the NWWLA annually selects a cohort of 20 rising women to participate in a leadership training and mentorship program. This can be seen as the equivalent of spring training for these aspiring leaders, where they receive comprehensive education on the critical components of local government and leadership.

Competitive Selection Process

In “A League of Their Own,” players were chosen based on their talent, commitment, and passion for the game. Similarly, the



Just as Babe Ruth pointed to the bleachers and called his home run in the 1932 World Series, the 2023-2024 Rookie Class of the Northwest Women's Academy are calling their shots for bright futures ahead.

NWWLA employs a competitive selection process to choose its cohort. Women are selected not only for their potential but also for their dedication to local government, career growth aspirations, and the need for the support and guidance that the academy provides. This ensures that the participants are qualified and deeply committed to making a difference in their communities.

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Team of Coaches and Mentors

In the movie, the baseball teams were led by experienced coaches who guided the players through the game's challenges. The NWWLA takes a similar approach by assembling a team of coaches, comprised of past alumni and a steering committee, who develop the academy's curriculum. These coaches bring their own experiences and insights, acting as mentors to the rookies and providing valuable guidance as they navigate the complexities of leadership in local government.

Hall of Fame Level Training

Just as the baseball players in the movie received training from Hall of Fame level coaches (...well, by the end of the movie), the NWWLA exposes its cohort to the best in the field of local government. Renowned city managers, directors, and local government leaders are brought in to share their expertise and insights, elevating the training experience to a Hall of Fame level. This exposure ensures that the participants receive a top-notch education and are well-prepared for the challenges.

Building a Network

One of the key takeaways from "A League of Their Own" was the strong bond that formed among the players. Similarly, the NWWLA emphasizes building a network among its participants. The cohort becomes a supportive community, and the connections made during the program extend beyond the training camp. The alumni network becomes a valuable resource for ongoing support and collaboration in the challenging field of local government management.

Entering the Big Show

Just as the baseball players were prepped to enter the big leagues, the NWWLA prepares its cohort to enter the world of local government management. With knowledge, skills, and a robust support network, these women are empowered to take on leadership roles and make a meaningful impact in Oregon's local government. The results have paid off; the NWWLA alumni have excelled in their careers, several rising to positions of directors of departments and city managers, and many others continue to rise through the ranks.

Conclusion

The Northwest Women's Leadership Academy stands as a beacon of empowerment, echoing the spirit of resilience and determination portrayed in "A League of Their Own." Through a structured program of education, mentorship, and networking, the NWWLA is nurturing a new generation of leaders poised to leave an indelible mark on local government in Oregon. The parallels between the academy and the professional women's baseball league serve as a poignant reminder that, just like their counterparts on the baseball field, women in leadership can overcome challenges and thrive when provided with the right support and opportunities. ■



OLLG Hosts First Winter Conference

In 2022, Oregon Latinos in Local Government (OLLG) launched its first membership drive and hasn't looked back since. OLLG is a membership organization focused on:

- Supporting Latine professionals in local government;
- Promoting cultural awareness among local government employees who serve communities with a significant Latine population; and
- Increasing public participation in local government within the Latine community.

Cities and other government agencies can pay an annual group rate which allows anyone within the organization (both elected and appointed) to become members of OLLG and get access to their listserv, free Café con Leche educational sessions, and reduced rates for in-person events.

On February 23, OLLG hosted its first in-person educational event, as more than 60 people attended the 2024 Winter Conference in Lake Oswego to learn together, celebrate their work as public servants and build connections. Informative breakout sessions included:

- The Art of Networking – Hillsboro and Lake Oswego staff discussed authentic connections and your personal brand;
- Finding Your Career Path – tips included taking calculated risks, being your authentic self and asking yourself hard questions;
- Creating Successful Affinity Groups – navigating the challenges and tensions that often arise; and
- Municipal Government Functions – what are the essential skills people need when entering executive-level management.

OLLG will be hosting its second in-person Fall Conference on **Friday, September 20**. Anyone interested in learning more about OLLG and its member benefits are encouraged to visit: www.ollg.org.



CONSERVATION CORNER

Making the Most of the Water You Have This Summer

After such a wet winter in many parts of the Pacific Northwest, it may be difficult for homeowners and home gardeners to imagine that the region will soon see hot, dry summer conditions and that they may benefit from planting a dry garden. The reality for many of these homeowners and home gardeners is that their local water supplier may have to impose water restrictions (also known as water curtailment) on an increasingly regular basis. With proper education and planning, water users within your service area can, by making small changes, still enjoy a beautiful yard and fruitful vegetable garden no matter the climatic conditions. Below are some examples of educational information you can supply to your water users to help them start thinking about alternatives that use less water.



Xeriscape by Jeremy Levine Design

It's a common misnomer that gardening without water isn't gardening at all. Rather, it's about making the most of the water you do have: Dry gardening and xeriscaping are similar in this way. The term dry gardening typically applies to the planting of vegetables that require limited to no irrigation water to thrive. Xeriscaping involves landscaping (such as a front yard) with vegetation that reduces or eliminates the need for irrigation water (see 4th Quarter 2021 [Local Focus Conservation Corner](#) article for ideas). Both approaches have their place in creating a water-wise, drought tolerant, thriving landscape and garden. In this issue of Conservation Corner, our focus is on tips for dry gardening.

• Dry Gardening

- Store rainwater to use later in the year – (Oregon Water Resources rules allow state residents to collect runoff from rooftops to store in rain barrels, water tanks, or other containers);
- Understand and plan for the possible drawbacks of storing water: mosquitoes, space constraints (a 250-gallon tank is 3' by 5.5', and a 2,500-gallon is 8' x 8'), significant upfront investment (tank size, type, installation), aesthetics;
- Choose vegetables and plants that can grow with less water and prefer arid conditions, such as:
 - Beans (all varieties, pole and dry beans)
 - Peas
 - Beets
 - Carrots



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- Mustard Greens
- Cucumber
- Eggplant
- Pepper (all varieties)
- Sweet Potato
- Tomatillo (always plant two of these for proper cross-pollination!)
- Sweet Corn
- Squash (winter and summer)
- Tomatoes (try early producing or heat-resistant varieties like Early Girl and Roma);
- Plant further apart than you would with unlimited water;
- Apply soil covering to prevent further loss of moisture;
- Add organic matter to soil to help it better retain moisture (two inches or more);
- Mulch to help retain soil moisture and prevent weeds (weeds are moisture thieves!);
- To prevent rot, refrain from putting compost directly next to plant stems;
- Break up surface cultivation of soil to help it capture and retain moisture before rainfalls in the winter and spring;
- Plant water-heavy vegetables earlier in the season and water-light vegetables later in the season;
- Trim excess foliage regularly, as foliage uses moisture, and you want that moisture used by the fruit;
- Install a drip irrigation system (A properly installed drip irrigation system can save up to 80% of the water normally used in traditional irrigation and is better long-term for



Photo by Oakley Originals

plants as the chance of moisture landing on fruit or leaves is reduced); and

- When you water, water deeply!

For more information about xeriscaping, dry gardening and other gardening techniques. Please visit the OSU Extension Service webpage at extension.oregonstate.edu/collection/water-wise-home-landscape-xeriscape.

For questions related to Oregon Water Resources Department's water conservation programs, please contact Kerri Cope at Kerri.H.Cope@oregon.gov or 503-979-9544. ■



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Get Ready for Summer!

Cities Gear Up for Summer Fun with Robust Roster of Festivals Across the State

Summer is almost here, and whether you are in the mood for crowds, chili cook-offs and classic cars or pancakes, parades and live performances, a diverse array of family fun is available in communities across the state. Several offer a chance to step back in history to the days of Robin Hood, gold miners and pioneer farmers, while others celebrate specific cultures through music, dancing, food and art.

This diverse sampling of summer festivals has a common theme: They are filled with activities and events that foster community pride, fellowship, civic engagement, family fun and interests that bring people together.



Photo by Jim Row

Woodburn Fiesta Mexicana



Photo by Sarah Waters

Canyon City '62 Days

Since 1922, residents of Canyon City have celebrated '62 Days to commemorate the event that established the Grant County town. Gold was discovered in Canyon Creek near Whiskey Gulch on June 8, 1862. The Whiskey Gulch Gang, formed in 1922, organized the first '62 Days and is marking the annual event's 103rd anniversary this year.

The event kicks off with a chili cook-off on June 14. The next day starts early with the Gold Rush Run and Walk and the Miners Breakfast. A parade begins later in the morning and is followed by games and events around town. The day also features live music, a pie social, a medicine wagon show, a talent show, and a mock shootout and hanging.

Other activities include fast draw competitions, street dances, face painting, dunk tanks, cornhole tournaments, old time fiddlers, art shows and volumes of vendors. The local historic Sel's Brewery serves brews on Friday and Saturday nights during the celebration.

"During this year's celebration is also scheduled the 1974 Grant Union High School's 50-year class reunion that adds to the overall cheer of all who attend," said Mayor Steve Fischer.

Columbia City Celebration

The Columbia City Celebration, scheduled for August 10 at Columbia City Elementary School, encourages car enthusiasts to "show and shine," with all vehicles welcome to vie for dash plaques and awards for a registration fee of \$25. Live music by The Decades and a lunch cart will accompany the event.

The Show and Shine Car Show is held in conjunction with a strawberry pancake breakfast, live music, book and DVD sale, quilt raffle, craft vendors, art show and Kid Zone. The event benefits the Columbia City Community Library, and each child receives a free book. Attendees can also participate in a city history event and tours.

"This year they are adding a city history tour. A lot of folks are generous enough to volunteer their time and effort to make it a success," said Columbia City Councilor Gordon Thistle.

Culver Crawdad Festival

The 2024 Culver Crawdad Festival is a family-oriented event celebrating crawdads, which are freshwater lobsters that are commercially harvested from nearby Lake Billy Chinook.

Scheduled for August 17 at Culver City Park, the festival begins with a parade at 10 a.m. with marching bands, fire trucks and floats decked out in crawdad themes. Admission is free and activities for children include face painting, pinata smashing and a book walk.

The crawdad boil is the main focus of the event, with a menu of crawdad Louis salad, Cajun crawdad rolls, smoked chicken and crawdad gumbo.

(continued on page 24)

Dufur Threshing Bee

Dufur is a center of dry-land wheat farming that began just after settlers on the Oregon Trail 175 years ago. The city invites people to take a step back in time and experience a slice of country life during its annual Threshing Bee.

“We’re keeping the old farming traditions and history alive before we forget and lose them,” said Nancy Gibson, Dufur Historical Society president and director. “Regardless of where they come from, folks who come here feel a connection to their roots and the beauty of the land here.”

Scheduled for August 10, the day starts early with a country breakfast served at long picnic tables at the city park. The Threshing Bee Parade winds through Main Street, and then local farmers and ranchers bring out their antique farm equipment to demonstrate harvesting, threshing and more with locally grown wheat. Visitors also can see steam engines, horse-drawn farm equipment and a tractor pull competition at the threshing field.

Other activities during the daylong event include artisan craft booths, a quilt show, petting zoo, tractor parade, and a rustic barbeque dinner and live music on the grounds of the historic Balch Hotel in the evening. Attendees can also tour the old one-room schoolhouse, log cabin, cookhouse and blacksmith shop.

The event continues into the next day with a classic car show, where people can see antique refurbished cars from the '30s through the '70s.



Junction City Scandinavian Festival

Junction City will celebrate its 63rd Scandinavian Festival August 8-11, starting with a processional parade to the Festival Park Stage. The festival honors the cultural heritage of Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Norway with three stages of entertainment filled with choral and instrumental groups, folk dancers and informational presentations.

The free event features a smorgasbord of food that includes traditional favorites such as Swedish meat pies and Ebelskivers (Danish pancakes) as well as shave ice, corn on the cob and other street fair choices.

All vendors at the Scandinavian Festival dress in traditional garb, so attending is an immersive experience. There are demonstrations of blacksmithing, spinning, knitting, tatting lace and Hardanger embroidery.

The St. Lucia Scholarship, funded by the Scandinavian Cultural Foundation, is awarded during the opening ceremonies to a high school senior living in the greater Junction City area who has been involved with the festival. The scholarship is awarded to seniors who plan to further their education through college or trade school, and have been active in the festival through dance, volunteering or work.

“The festival supports our local economy, keeping the Scandinavian culture and town history alive. We look forward to welcoming you to this year’s festival,” said Mayor Ken Wells.



Chief Joseph Days

Joseph will kick off its 78th annual Chief Joseph Days on July 23 with the Bucking Horse Stampede down Main Street that afternoon. The festival and rodeo continue through July 28 with several days of PRCA rodeo action at Harley Tucker Memorial Arena.

The Junior Parade follows its route on Main Street on July 26, and the Grand Parade is on Main Street the next day. The Chief Joseph Commemorative Friendship Feast & Dances take place on July 27. Free to the public, the feast offers salmon provided by Native American tribes, buffalo from Stangel Bison Ranch and traditional Native American dancing following the feast.

Live music, dances for teens and adults, and a scholarship presentation to a graduating senior in Wallowa County also are part of the festival’s activities. It concludes that Sunday morning with Cowboy Church and breakfast.



Paisley Mosquito Festival

Paisley’s Mosquito Festival began in 1984 as a community fundraiser for vector control to help eradicate the local mosquito population. Residents Larry and Bev Hill came up with the idea after a particularly bad mosquito outbreak.

The first years included the crowning of a “Ms. Quito” and raised enough money for essential equipment, including a truck, a fogger and chemicals, and several bug zappers to combat the relentless mosquito swarms, according to OPB.

Scheduled for July 26-28, the opening night features a dance and beer garden. Saturday’s events include a fun run, parade, games, a barbeque, vendors, a quilt show and a car show, among other activities. The festival closes with a community breakfast.



Reedsport Chainsaw Carving Competition

In 2000, Reedsport became the home of “The Oregon Divisional Chainsaw Carving Championship.” Held June 13-16, the Chainsaw Carving Competition continues to grow and attract carvers from all around the world.

In 2011, the Oregon Festival and Events Association awarded this event the Ovation Award for the Best Performing Art Festival of Oregon. The talented works of the chainsaw artists at the Reedsport show have brought recognition to the city and, in 2011, that state Legislature passed a resolution naming Reedsport “The Chainsaw Carving Capital of Oregon.”

The show consists of two main events. During the Master Carving, artists have four days to complete their main sculpture. The carvers start working on their master carvings at 7:30 a.m. and continue through the day. Each day of the competition, the carvers also create finished pieces in 90 minutes called Quick Carves. That event happens every day from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Finished Quick Carve sculptures are auctioned off to the highest bidder, and Master Carvings are sold individually.

“The Chainsaw Carving Championship is important to the area because it brings hundreds of people to town, and that creates commerce for our local businesses including gas stations, restaurants, grocery stores, hotels and more,” said Councilor Debby Turner, who serves as chairperson for the event and treasurer for the Reedsport/Winchester Bay Chamber of Commerce’s Board of Directors.

(continued on page 26)

Cities Partner with Chambers of Commerce, Private Companies to Promote Tourism

Summer festivals not only foster community pride, fellowship, civic engagement and family fun, though that is their primary purpose. They also boost tourism as they attract attendees from other areas, and cities have found that collaboration with their local chambers of commerce, private companies and volunteers from the community are essential to hosting successful events.



Woodburn Mayor Frank Lonergan

Woodburn Mayor Frank Lonergan said that city’s vibrant Fiesta Mexicana used to be organized by private organizations, but the festival suffered financially about a decade ago and the city took it over. The city now oversees the event and raises financial support for it through sponsorships from private companies, the University of Oregon and other entities. The Woodburn Chamber of

Commerce hosts the high-level soccer tournament that culminates at Legion Park.

Lonergan noted that last year’s Fiesta Mexicana drew 27,000 people, many of them tourists, and the city has partnered with eight other surrounding cities to form a tourism alliance that promotes destination events such as the St. Paul Rodeo, Aurora Colony Days and others.

Sherwood’s Robin Hood Festival is organized by the independent nonprofit Robin Hood Association, which partners with the city, chamber of commerce and local businesses to obtain sponsorships. The association is made up of community volunteers.



Reedsport Councilor Debby Turner

Reedsport City Councilor Debby Turner, treasurer for the Reedsport/Winchester Bay Chamber of Commerce’s Board of Directors, also serves as chairperson for the annual Chainsaw Carving Competition and said the festival takes a lot of hard work. She specifically thanked Jennifer Rockwell and Phyllis Dever with the chamber for their tireless efforts.

“Without the support of countless volunteers, our outstanding community and generous sponsors, none of this would be possible,” she said. “I would also like to thank the City of Reedsport. The chamber could not host this event if we didn’t have such a wonderful working relationship. Our City Manager Deanna Schafer and Public Works Director Kim Clardy also put a lot into Chainsaw.”

Columbia City Councilor Gordon Thistle said the Columbia City Celebration was turned over to the city’s library to manage as a fundraiser, adding the library is all volunteer and self-supporting with no city or county funding.



Sherwood Robin Hood Festival

Sherwood will host its 71st Robin Hood Festival July 19-20, promising a magical summer festival that normally attracts nearly 20,000 revelers of all ages. This year's event will feature the Summer Community Parade; the International Archery Tournament with Nottingham, England, hosted locally by the Sylvan Archers; live music and other performances; and an extensive Vendor Village consisting of more than 100 booths.

As part of the festival, students are encouraged to apply for the James and Marie Ferry Memorial Scholarship, which provides \$500 to a graduating senior within the Sherwood School District who plans to attend a college, university or vocational school. James and Marie Ferry were early festival volunteers who spent countless hours serving the community.

In addition, community members are invited to nominate someone to be knighted during a traditional knighting ceremony. Medieval re-enactments, stunts, swordplay and fencing lessons, a petting zoo and a climbing wall also will fill the streets of Sherwood Old Town and its historical park.

The Sherwood Robin Hood Festival Association was incorporated and held the first festival in 1954. The festival is sponsored by Langer's Entertainment Center and other sponsors and volunteers.

Sherwood City Council President Kim Young said that the festival actually begins in the spring with a feast and the crowning of the Maid Marian Court, an event that kicks off the festival season.

"This has been part of the community for 71 years. It is a festival that our community, as well as surrounding communities, look forward to every year," Young said. "I love the parade. The community starts lining up very early and the parade is full of local organizations and businesses."

Sutherlin Blackberry Festival

Blackberry and chili cooking contests, mud volleyball and racing, BMX, live music, a swap meet, craft and food vendors, and a classic car show and cruise are all part of the Sutherlin Blackberry Festival.

Now in its 35th year, this year's event is scheduled for August 16-18 and will include a golf tournament hosted by the Sutherlin Rotary Club and a cornhole tournament hosted by The Body Shop.

Friday will start off with a Poker Run and end with a drive-in movie in Sutherlin Central Park. Saturday is the blackberry cook-off, mud volleyball, BMX races, car show and cruise, and live music. Sunday is the motorcycle show, Diaper Derby, chili cook-off and mud races. Each year, a car is raffled off as the grand prize and tickets cost \$5. This year's model is a '68 Chevelle.

The Sutherlin Blackberry Festival Committee also awards annual scholarships to qualified, eligible and deserving graduating seniors of Sutherlin/Oakland high schools who go on to attend a college or trade school.



Waldport Beachcomber Days

The theme for Waldport's 68th Beachcomber Days, scheduled for June 15-16, is "Waves & Wonders." The festival is described as a celebration "where the forest meets the sea."

The annual event offers a car show, timber show, parade, live music and other performances, a Kid Faire, and a Treasure Chest Raffle Drawing for a chest filled with merchandise donated by local vendors.

Last year's festival drew 100 entries to the car show, 60 participants in the parade, 70 vendors and 31 Kid Faire games and booths.

Beachcomber Days strives to bring the community together for a vibrant and inclusive celebration and provide scholarships and educational opportunities for children to create a legacy of success for generations to come.



Woodburn Fiesta Mexicana

Woodburn is celebrating the 60th anniversary of its Fiesta Mexicana August 16-18 with more than 60 vendors, a soccer tournament, parade, lucha libre wrestling matches, car show with vintage cars and lowriders, live music and performances, and carnival in Legion Park.

Fiesta Mexicana grew from a 1963 event that celebrated the end of the harvest and was an expression of gratitude from the community to its many farmworkers. The Club Latino Americano started Fiesta Mexicana the following year to preserve the Mexican culture for future generations.

“We have one of the most diverse communities in Oregon, and this has always been a celebration recognizing that diversity and appreciating the farmworkers for what they have done for the community and the valley,” said Mayor Frank Lonergan.

He noted that the parade stretches about a mile long as it moves from city hall to Legion Park, lasts about an hour and a half, and draws more than 10,000 spectators along the route. This year’s grand marshal is Oregon Rep. Andrea Salinas.

Fiesta Mexicana is free to the public on opening day, August 16. On August 17-18, it is free until 5 p.m. and there is a \$5 entry fee after that for people 10 and older. It runs until 11 p.m. that Friday and Saturday and 10 p.m. on Sunday. ■

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

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Summer Events

Mark your calendars for fun activities across Oregon

June

- 1 **Ontario** – America’s Global Village Festival (ontariochamber.com)
- 1-16 **Canby** – Oregon Renaissance Faire (oregonfaire.com)
- 1-16 **St. Paul** – Berries, Brews and BBQs (fpgardens.com)
- 13 **Donald** – Donald Daze Hazelnut Festival (donalddaze.com)
- 13-16 **Reedsport** – Oregon Divisional Chainsaw Carving Championship (oregonccc.com)
- 14-15 **Nyssa** – Nite Rodeo (nyssaniterodeo.com)
- 14-15 **Canyon City** – Annual '62 Days (gcoregonlive.com)
- 15 **The Dalles** – Gorge Hops & Hogs Fest (thedalleschamber.com)
- 15-16 **La Pine** – High Desert Rhubarb Festival (lapineseniorcenter.org/rhubarb-festival)
- 15 **Joseph** – Mt. High Broncs & Bulls (mountainhighrodeo.com)
- 15-16 **Cannon Beach** – 60th Annual Cannon Beach Sandcastle Contest (cannonbeach.org)
- 15-16 **Waldport** – Beachcomber Days (beachcomberdays.com)
- 15-16 **Richland** – Eagle Valley Days (hellscanyonchamber.com)
- 21-22 **Prineville** – Western Days Festival (prinevillechamber.com)

- 21-22 **Umatilla** – Umatilla Landing Days (umatillalandingdays.org)
- 21-23 **Astoria** – Scandinavian Midsummer Festival (astoriascanfest.com)
- 21-23 **Lake Oswego** – Festival of the Arts (lakewood-center.org)
- 22-23 **Lincoln City** – Summer Kite Festival (explorelincolncity.com)
- 25-28 **Myrtle Creek** – Summer Festival (facebook.com/MyrtleCreekSummerFestival)
- 26-28 **Paisley** – Mosquito Festival (facebook.com/paisleymosquitofestival)
- 28-30 **Rogue River** – 71st Annual National Rooster Crow Weekend (rogueriverchamber.com)
- 28-30 **Roseburg** – Summer Arts Festival (uvars.com/summer-arts-festival)
- 28-7/14 **Eugene** – Oregon Bach Festival (oregonbachfestival.org)
- 29-30 **Salem** – World Beat Festival (worldbeatfestival.org)

July

- 2-6 **St. Paul** – St. Paul Rodeo (stpaulrodeo.com)
- 3-4 **Haines** – Haines Stampede (hainesstampede.com)
- 3-6 **La Pine** – Frontier Days (lapinefrontierdays.org)
- 4 **Astoria/Warrenton** – Independence Day Activities (oldoregon.com)
- 4 **Estacada** – Timber Festival (estacadatimberfestival.com)

- 4 **Lakeside** – Fireworks Celebration (cityoflakeside.org)
- 4 **Florence** – Old Fashioned 4th of July (florencechamber.com)
- 4 **Rockaway Beach** – Independence Day Celebration (rockawaybeach.net)
- 4-7 **Portland** – Waterfront Blues Festival (waterfrontbluesfest.com)
- 11-13 **Nyssa** – Thunderegg Days (nyssachamberofcommerce.com)
- 12-14 **North Bend** – 121st Birthday & July Jubilee (oregonsadventurecoast.com)
- 13-14 **Newberg** – Willamette Valley Lavender Festival (chehalemcultrualcenter.org/lavender)
- 13-27 **Coos Bay** – 41st Annual Oregon Coast Music Festival (oregoncoastmusic.org)
- 18-20 **Cottage Grove** – Bohemia Mining Days (bohemiainingdays.org)
- 18-23 **Grants Pass** – Back to the 50s (visitgrantspass.com)
- 19-20 **Sherwood** – Robin Hood Festival (robinhoodfestival.org)
- 19-21 **Baker City** – Miners Jubilee (minersjubilee.com)
- 19-21 **Toledo** – Summer Festival and Logging Show (toledooregon.org)
- 19-20 **Yamhill** – Yamhill Derby Days (cityofyamhill.org)
- 19-21 **Wallowa** – Tamkaliks Celebration & Pow Wow (wallowanezperce.org)
- 20 **Hubbard** – Hop Festival (facebook.com/hubbardhopfest)
- 23-28 **Joseph** – Chief Joseph Days (chiefjosephdays.com)
- 25-28 **Corvallis** – Celtic Festival (corvalliscelticfestival.org)
- 26-28 **Garibaldi** – Garibaldi Days (visitgaribaldi.gov)
- 26-28 **Lowell** – Blackberry Jam Festival (blackberryjamfestival.com)
- 27 **Stayton** – Santiam Summerfest (staytonsublimitychamber.org)
- 27-28 **North Powder** – Huckleberry Festival (facebook.com/northpowderhuckleberryfest)

August

- 2-4 **Silverton** – Homer Davenport Community Festival (homerdavenport.com)
- 10 **Columbia City** – Columbia City Celebration (facebook.com/col.city.celebration)
- 7-11 **Astoria** – Regatta Festival (astoriaregatta.com)
- 8-11 **Junction City** – Scandinavian Festival (scandinavianfestival.com)
- 8-11 **Seaside** – World's Largest Beach Volleyball Tournament (seasidebeachvolleyball.com)

- 9-11 **Brookings** – Pirates of the Pacific Festival (piratesofthepacificfestival.net)
- 9-11 **North Plains** – Elephant Garlic Festival (funstinks.com)
- 10-11 **Dufur** – Threshing Bee (dufurihistoricalsociety.org)
- 16-17 **Cascade Locks** – Pacific Crest Trail Days (pctdays.com)
- 16-18 **Sutherlin** – Blackberry Festival (blackberry-festival.com)
- 16-18 **Woodburn** – Fiesta Mexicana (woodburn-or.gov)
- 17 **Beaverton** – Beaverton Night Market (beavertonoregon.gov)
- 17 **Cove** – Cove Cherry Fair (covecherryfair.com)
- 17 **Culver** – Crawdad Festival (cityofculver.net)
- 17 **Forest Grove** – Forest Grove Uncorked (fguncorked.com)
- 24 **Klamath Falls** – Klamath Music Festival (ragland.org)
- 23-25 **Albany** – Northwest Art & Air Festival (nwartandair.org)
- 23-24 **Seaside** – Hood to Coast Relay (hoodtoastrerelay.com)
- 24-25 **Coos Bay** – Annual Blackberry Arts Festival (oregonsadventurecoast.com)




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Can NIMBY Activists Advance Voter Initiatives to Overturn UGB Expansions?

Despite legislation and a looming election, Washington County Superior Court punts matter to an uncertain date

Since the time of Governor Tom McCall, cities both large and small in Oregon have been obligated to periodically plan for growth in a highly structured and controlled manner. Long gone are the days when cities would merely work with property owners and residents to decide where future growth should go.

Instead, cities now follow a detailed and prescriptive set of state laws and administrative rules that limit where, when, and by how much they can grow. At the same time, another set of state regulations requires cities to plan for growth and expand their boundaries in order to accommodate future jobs and housing (the amount of which the state also has final say in determining). This has led to a de facto system whereby cities merely follow a prescribed path when expanding housing and employment opportunities, as well as urban growth boundary (UGB) expansions.

These processes have become substantially administrative in nature, and cities lack the general legislative and policy-making authority they exercise over other subjects. Instead, these local decisions implement policy decisions that have already been made at the state level.

UGB Expansion Subject to State Review, Approval

After a city or Metro adopts a UGB decision pursuant to this regulatory framework, they must submit all changes to the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) for review and approval. The DLCD director must either approve the local decision, send the decision back to the local government for revision, or refer it to the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) for a hearing and decision. In addition, a director's decision to approve or remand a local UGB decision may be appealed to LCDC by parties who participated in hearings at the local level. Thus, the state has mandated the substantive rules and prescribed a state review process for all important decisions about growth.

Little to No Usable Land Left

For more than 15 years, North Plains, a semi-rural city located west of Hillsboro in Washington County, has studied its potential growth, and decided to follow state requirements for expanding its urban growth boundary. There is little to no usable vacant land within the city boundaries, housing is scarce, and the city

lacks commercial and industrial land desperately needed to support jobs, provide amenities for local residents, and stabilize the city's tax base.

City Sought Consensus Before UGB Expansion

Earlier attempts to expand sputtered, but the city kept trying. The most recent attempt at growth included months of community engagement, hundreds of thousands of dollars in costly analysis, and communitywide effort to craft consensus on a series of challenging questions. After all was said and done, and with broad based resident support, the North Plains City Council voted to expand the city's UGB in 2023.

A Dissatisfied Group Challenged Expansion

Despite all the city's years of hard work, not everyone was satisfied. A group of people who mostly live outside the city—many of them in unincorporated Washington County and well beyond the proposed expansion area—challenged the expansion, because it might eventually bring housing and people closer to them. Their challenge would go nowhere in the state-prescribed appeal process because the city did everything the state required, from accepting its share of new people, to holding many public meetings, to gaining state endorsement of \$275,000 to fully concept plan the proposed areas.

When the state Legislature heard that these opponents were calling for a vote on the expansion, it acted decisively: it adopted a

statute that said that because the Legislature and agencies have already established state-wide policy for UGB decisions, the city's decision is simply an administrative decision that implements those policies and thus cannot be referred to the ballot without violating those very policies. As a result, the election should not be held.

Judge Ordered Election to Go Forward

Always resourceful, the opponents sued to keep the election going forward. The judge did what most judges would do: preserved the status-quo and told the city to keep the election on the ballot, at least until a final decision is made in the courts.

So now the issue may go to trial long after the election date. To be clear, if local decisions that implement statewide planning laws can be referred to the ballot, then the Oregon land use system will be rocked—in the direction of local control and not the public's interest in consistent planning laws that benefit the whole state. If not, then local governments will be able to point to the state when citizens complain and redirect the hostility to the state. ■

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Living With Arbitrage Earnings

High Interest Rate Environment May Mean Investment Earnings

They say that every grey cloud has a silver lining and, perhaps, the silver lining to the federal government’s interest rate hikes are that certain investments are producing income for the first time in more than a decade. That sounds like good news, right? After all, the goal of any prudent investor, including an investor of municipal funds, is to realize a reasonable rate of return.

Well... every silver lining has a grey cloud. If investments made with the proceeds of tax-exempt bonds earn returns in excess of the yield on such bonds, issuers need to look out for arbitrage.

What are Arbitrage Bonds?

The provisions of the tax code addressing tax-exempt bonds are a mire of exclusions, exceptions, and exceptions to the exceptions, but the basic premise is that interest received in respect of a debt obligation which would otherwise be taxable income is not taxable to the holder so long as the debt obligation is a qualified state or local government bond. One exception to this general rule is that a state or local government bond is not qualified (i.e. interest on the bond would be taxable) to the extent that it is an arbitrage bond (unless the issuer takes action to stay in compliance with the rules described below).

In the simplest sense, an arbitrage bond is one in which the proceeds are used to make investments that produce a return in excess of the yield on the bonds. For example, if “State Authority” issues \$1 million of bonds at a yield of 4% and uses a portion of the \$1 million to purchase an investment paying 5%, those bonds are arbitrage bonds because the investments made with the bond proceeds earn a return in excess of the bond yield.

The situation arising as the federal government hikes interest rates is that bonds which were not arbitrage bonds when they were issued because the proceeds were invested in investments paying returns so low that no one expected the rate of return to exceed the yield on the bonds have suddenly become profitable investments.

What is Arbitrage?

“Arbitrage” is the direct or indirect investment of the gross proceeds of an issue in any investment property which produces a yield over the term of the issue which is materially higher than the yield on the issue.



“Materially higher” generally means 1/8th of 1% (.125%) higher than the yield on the bonds, but can be more or less restrictive depending on the issue and where the proceeds are invested. For example, for proceeds held in a refunding escrow, materially higher means 1/1000th of 1% (.001%)

What Proceeds are Subject to the Arbitrage Rules?

All “gross proceeds” of the bonds are subject to these arbitrage rules. This includes not only the amounts received by the issuer from the sale of the bonds, but also other funds of the issuer that are set aside to pay debt service on the bonds, including

debt service funds or accounts and any reserve fund that may be required by the bond documents to be established to secure the repayment of the bonds.

When Can You Earn Arbitrage?

Issuers are permitted to invest in higher yielding investments under certain exceptions (i.e. they may earn arbitrage). If no exception applies, the issuer must either:

- Limit the yield on its investment of bond proceeds to a yield that is not “materially higher” than the yield on the bonds; or
- If permitted, make a yield reduction payment to the U.S. Treasury.

Issuers may invest bond proceeds in higher yielding investments under the following circumstances:

1. During Certain Temporary Periods:

- **3-year temporary period for capital projects.** For proceeds deposited in a fund to pay for the costs of capital projects financed by the issue, the issuer may invest the proceeds in higher yielding investments for 3 years from the issue date.
- **13-month temporary period for *bona fide* debt service funds (BFDSF) and working capital expenditures.** If the proceeds are deposited into a BFDSF (the balance of which is entirely spent on bond debt service in each 13-month period), the proceeds may be invested in higher yielding investments.
- **1-year temporary period for investment proceeds.** Monies earned from investment of bond proceeds may be invested in higher yielding investments for a period of one year from

the date such monies are received.

- **90-day temporary period for refunding.** If the proceeds are from a refunding issue, the issuer may only invest the proceeds in higher yielding investments for 90 days.
- **30-day for replacement proceeds.** Amounts which have a significantly direct nexus to the bond issue or governmental purpose financed by the bonds, such that they would be used for the governmental purpose had the bonds not been issued, are “replacement proceeds” and may only be invested in higher yielding investments during a 30-day temporary period beginning on the day the monies become replacement proceeds.

2. In a reasonably required reserve or replacement fund (a “4R Fund”). The rules for 4R Funds, primarily to do with sizing, are somewhat complex, but the idea is that if you keep a certain amount of proceeds in a fund securing repayment of the bonds, such proceeds may be invested above the bond yield.

3. Minor portion. Proceeds in an amount not exceeding the lesser of \$100,000 or 5% of the sale proceeds of the issue (a “Minor Portion”) may be invested above the bond yield.

What is Rebate?

Now that you know when you can earn arbitrage, the question is: what can you do with those earnings? Unfortunately, the general rule is that they must be paid, or “rebated,” to the U.S. Treasury. This means that even if an issuer is permitted to invest in higher yielding investments under the yield restriction rules (e.g. during a temporary period), it may not get to keep them.

(continued on page 34)

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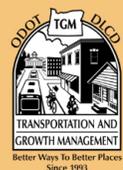
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(Note: as indicated above, in certain cases “yield reduction payments” can be made instead of rebate).

Spending Exceptions. Exceptions to rebate may apply in situations in which the proceeds of the bonds, including investment earnings, are spent on an accelerated schedule:

1. **2-year construction bond spending exception** for bonds issued to finance construction projects. This spending exception requires that certain percentages of the proceeds of the bonds be spent in six-month increments.
2. **18-month spending exception** for bonds issued to finance capital projects meeting the requirements for the 3-year temporary period. Like the exception for construction bonds, this exception requires that certain percentages of the proceeds of the bonds be spent over six-month increments.
3. The **6-month spending exception** for all other bonds.

If each six-month increment of the applicable spending exception is met, the issuer will be able to keep any investment earnings in excess of what would have been earned had the proceeds been invested at the yield on the bonds. If any such individual increment is not met, the issue will be subject to rebate.

Other Exceptions. In addition to the exceptions to rebate for spending bond proceeds, as discussed above, there are two notable exceptions to rebate:

1. **Small Issuer Exception.** An issue of tax-exempt bonds is not subject to rebate if, at the time the bonds are issued, the issuer reasonably expects that the aggregate amount of bonds that it will issue in that calendar year does not exceed \$5 million (school districts can benefit from a larger small issuer limit of \$5 million plus up to \$10 million issued for public school construction).
2. **Proceeds in a Bona Fide Debt Service Fund.** Bond proceeds held in a BFDSF are not subject to rebate, provided that the requirements for the BFDSF are continuously met.

Next Steps

- **Talk to Your Bond Counsel.** Unfortunately, the full scope of the arbitrage and rebate rules cannot be reduced to a brief article. Issuers should talk with their bond counsel to ensure that those in charge of monitoring the investment of bond proceeds understand the limitations.
- **Hire a Qualified Rebate Compliance Provider.** The rebate calculation rules are complicated and are subject to a number of exceptions and credits. For most issuers, rebate compliance is beyond the capability or interest of internal staff. Issuers may desire to retain the services of a rebate consultant to ensure its compliance obligations are met and that it receives the benefit of all available exceptions and credit. Hawkins, Delafield & Wood, LLP is well equipped to provide such services. Please contact us if you would like to discuss our rebate compliance services.

Note that amounts in a 4R Fund, which may be invested in higher yielding investments, are subject to the rebate requirements. So, even though issuers may be able to earn arbitrage on those accounts, they cannot keep those earnings (unless they meet the small issuer exception).

- **Post-Issuance Compliance Procedures.** The IRS has strongly encouraged all issuers and conduit borrowers to adopt post-issuance compliance procedures as “best practices.” For example, the information return which is required to be filed with the IRS in connection with the issuance of tax-exempt bonds includes questions relating to whether written procedures have been established to monitor compliance with the tax laws, including the arbitrage rules. Talk with your bond counsel to discuss the adoption of such procedures, if none have been adopted, and make sure that your organization is following the procedures that it has adopted.

Questions? Contact: Jennifer Cordova, Tax Attorney, Hawkins Delafield & Wood LLP – (503) 402-1320 or jcordova@hawkins.com

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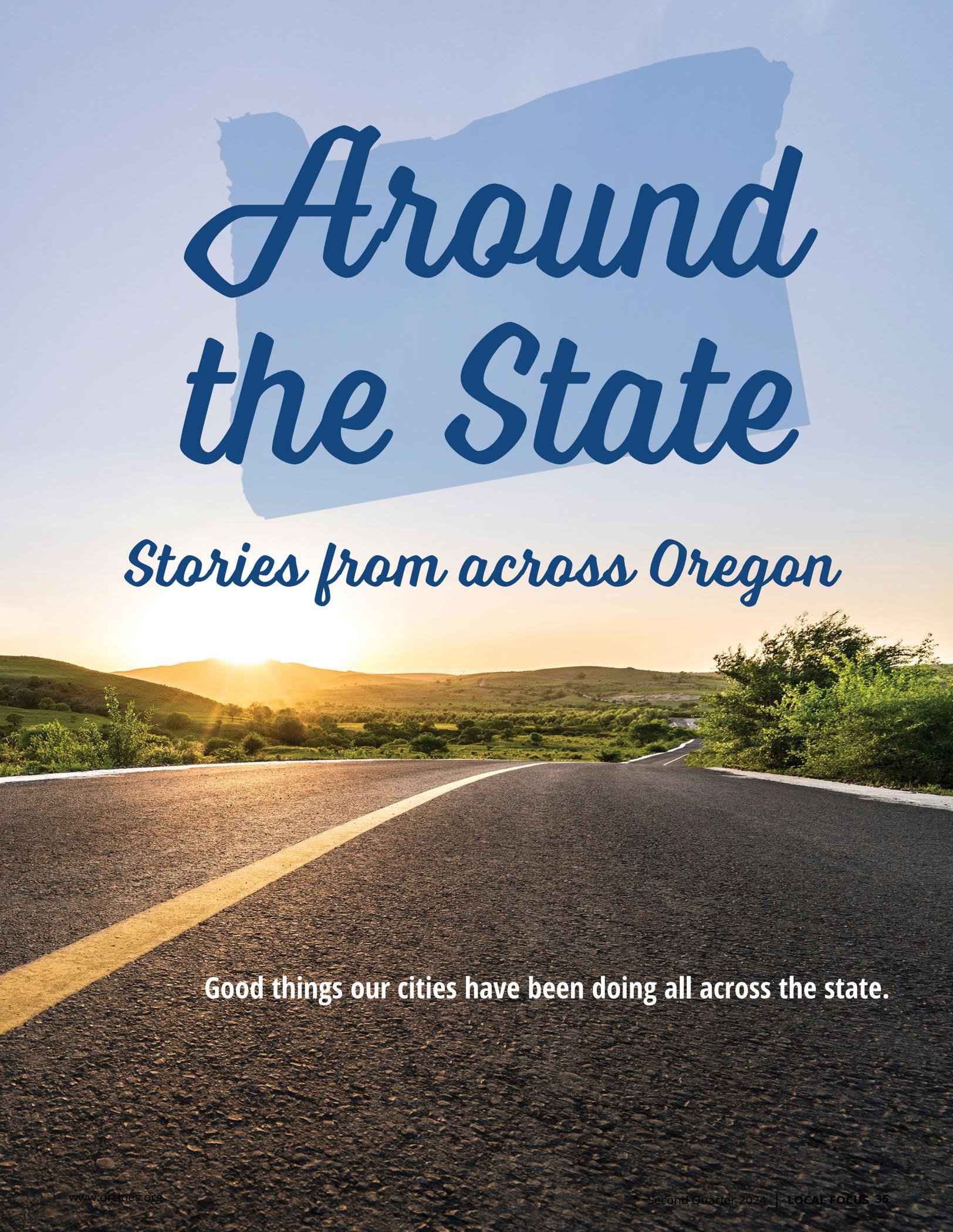
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HERMISTON

“I Love My City” Events Scheduled

Each spring, dozens of churches in Hermiston gather together for a day of service known as “I Love My City.” They focus on city projects that require cleaning up or setting up, such as last year’s project in which volunteers laid a couple hundred yards of sod for a new city park.

This year’s Serve Day is scheduled for May 18 and includes picking up garbage, pulling weeds and beautifying downtown Hermiston. At Hodge Park, volunteers will clean up garbage and weeds around the railroad tracks. Butte Park Trail, Oxbow Trail and Rotary Trail also will be cleaned up, as well as Riverfront Park, Belt Park, Horizon Park and the Greenwood neighborhood.

Volunteers will provide free car washes for members of the community at the ACE Hardware and Les Schwab Tires locations. Teams will be available at several laundromats to pay for laundry and pray with people. Free diapers will be provided to families in need at Agape House. Free haircuts for children and homeless people will be available at a trio of locations.

In addition, volunteer teams will visit residents of multiple senior centers to offer prayer and free portraits of residents. Other projects slated for the day include yard cleanup projects, recycling events and makeovers at other Hermiston Parks & Recreation locations. OWHN-COPES will sponsor a free lunch for all volunteers at McKenzie Park.

(Photos courtesy of ZEAL Church)



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DALLAS

City Celebrates Sesquicentennial

The city of Dallas recently celebrated its 150th anniversary with a flag raising at city hall, parades featuring both people and pets, dignitary speeches, historic displays, cake in the civic center and burial of a time capsule.

“Special appreciation goes out to the American Legion for their role in the flag-raising ceremony and all they do for our community,” the city said in a Facebook post about the February 17 event.

“We’re grateful to New Morning Bakery Dallas for the delicious birthday cake, to Grandma’s Attic Quilting for sharing their beautiful historic quilts, and to all the vendors who made the event special.”

“Lastly, heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers and city staff whose hard work made this event possible. Your dedication is truly appreciated!”



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*Competitive, negotiated and private placement transactions, 2019-23. Source: Thompson Reuters. Since 1895. Member SIPC and NYSE. © 2024 Piper Sandler & Co. CM-24-0639 4/24



The *Polk County Itemizer-Observer* shared a timeline of the city's development prior to the celebration. Dallas wasn't incorporated until 1874 and initially wasn't the county seat. Between 1878 and 1880, a narrow-gauge railroad was built into Dallas as part of a contest with Independence to see which city would be named county seat. The citizens of Dallas raised \$17,000 to bring the rail line and associated commerce to town. As a result, county government established offices there.

The first house in Dallas was built in 1856 by Lucien Health, who later became Oregon's secretary of state. Among other early residents was John Lancaster, the first carrier to bring mail from Salem to Dallas by horseback.

The first town hall was built in 1887 and telephone service began in 1892. The start of the sewer system was in 1904 when mains were laid on the "more populous" streets. The first free library was constructed in 1912 under the Carnegie Library Fund, according to the *Itemizer-Observer*.





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ASHLAND

Solar Panels Power New Trash Cans



Photo courtesy of the Rogue Valley Times

Downtown Ashland's new curbside trash cans feature eye-catching designs, trash compactors inside and are powered by solar panels. Eleven of the heavy-duty, cubic containers have been placed at downtown locations with a history of overflowing trash and high foot traffic.

The exterior of the cans display photographs of local scenes captured by Bob Palermini, a retired professional photographer, and Jesse Smith, a senior accounting analyst for the city. The cans may be opened by using a foot pedal or handle.

"In line with our city's commitment to enhancing tourism and maintaining clean public spaces, we've introduced a transformative upgrade to our waste and recycling infrastructure," Dorinda Cottle, city spokeswoman, told the *Rogue Valley Times*. "The new trash cans combine functionality with artistic beauty, offering solutions to common urban challenges such as overflowing bins, litter and pest control."

The trash cans cost \$4,783 each and come with a five-year warranty. The city is funding the \$60,000 pilot project by using lodging tax revenue. The pilot project was approved by the Ashland City Council as part of its 2023-2025 budget, and a team will reconvene in the fall to evaluate how the trash cans performed over the summer.

"Most of these new cans boast solar compacting technology, enabling them to maximize capacity and minimize overflow between scheduled pickups by Recology Associates," Cottle said in an email to the *Times*. "As we assess the success of this initiative, we'll evaluate its impact before considering further deployment."

Ashland also expects to hang flower baskets and plant new landscaping in beds this spring and summer as part of its downtown beautification efforts.

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BAKER CITY

New Well Adds to Water Storage Capacity

In 2009, Baker City became the first Oregon city to receive a permit from the state for aquifer storage and recovery (ASR). Last April, Public Works Director Joyce Bornstedt reported to the city council that the process the city pioneered to use more water flowing from its watershed has been a success, according to the *Baker City Herald*.

During the winter and spring, when the springs and streams in the watershed produce far more water than the city needs, and there is no demand for the water from farmers and ranchers, the city can divert some of the water into its supplementary well. The aquifer the well taps in effect serves as an underground reservoir for the watershed, which is on the east slopes of the Elkhorn Mountains about 10 miles west of the city.

Augmented with mountain water, the well is a more reliable backup source. The city typically uses well water during the spring snowmelt, when the watershed streams can temporarily run a bit muddy, and during the heat of summer, when water demand peaks while the watershed supply drops.

The permit allows the city to divert mountain water into the well from Nov. 1 to July 15, although Bornstedt told councilors the city typically does so during February and March. The original permit limited the city to diverting 200 million gallons per year. But the



state recently increased the annual limit to 240 million gallons to reflect the city's second backup well.

The city had that 654-foot-deep well drilled in 2020, at the east end of the Quail Ridge Golf Course parking lot. Bornstedt told councilors that the city had injected 77 million gallons of mountain water into the older well. That exceeds the total of 73 million diverted in 2023, the *Herald* reported.




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INDEPENDENCE

Community-Designed Park Breaks Ground

Independence recently broke ground on a new park in the Sunset Meadows neighborhood that is scheduled to be completed by fall. Mayor John McArdle kicked off the groundbreaking event, explaining the park is the result of a community vision crafted from local input into the city's 2015 parks master plan. It was later included into Independence's 2040 plan.

"Places like this just don't happen," McArdle said. "The system development charges (SDCs) that many of you paid on your houses when you moved into the neighborhood, and grants helped pay for this park. Development pays its fair share and that's (the way) it's supposed to be. We've worked hard as a city to find grants and other resources so we don't have to charge additional fees for people to have capital construction."

The city council recently accepted the only bid of \$457,112 from GT Landscape Solutions to construct the park. To help fund the project, in addition to SDCs, Independence received a \$75,000 grant Oregon Parks and Recreation and another \$50,000 from T-Mobile's Hometown Grant program. Pacific Power topped off the donations, by throwing in \$3,500 for the planting of trees this fall, according to the Polk County Itemizer-Observer.

McArdle said the park will be ADA compliant and will include irrigation and drainage and Nature Play Equipment that embraces the natural surrounding area. It will feature picnic tables, and a safety surface of engineered wood fiber or similar material will also be installed. In addition, the installation will include concrete work to tie the project location into the existing trail infrastructure and connect individual site elements.

Oregon Rep. Paul Evans, who participated in the groundbreaking ceremony, agreed the park was an amenity even his grandmother would have enjoyed.

"My grandmother lived about 1,000 feet that way, when the place my mom had to play growing up was actually that log rack in the fields near it," Evans said. "They didn't really have a lot of parks in Independence in the 1940s and '50s. They would be very grateful to see the children of today have something very special."



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SPRINGFIELD

Mill Street Reconstruction Project Underway

The Springfield Utility Board has begun work on a series of street improvement projects, with construction expected to be carried out over the next two years.

“The streets essentially died, so they have to replace everything,” said Mayor Sean Van Gordon, adding the project isn’t just important for residents. “It is actually a fairly big thoroughfare for people moving north to south in the community.”

Van Gordon said Mill Street has needed repairs for more than a decade, and the city began reconstruction in 2018, but more funds were needed. U.S. Representative Val Hoyle secured more than \$1 million from the 2024 Federal Fiscal Year Appropriations Package for the project. The state committed \$2 million, according to KMTR in Eugene.

“We are completely replacing our sanitary sewer line, so it’ll really provide good amenities for bikes and pedestrians, safety for cars and bikes and mopeds, as well as our stormwater, infrastructure and sewers,” said Springfield Managing Civil Engineer Kristi Krueger. ■



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