



NEWSLETTER

S T R E N G T H I N U N I T Y

Second Quarter 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



My wife Joan is a quilter. Once I watched her take out a whole row of stitching clear back to the center square. I asked her why when the results looked just fine to me.

Her reply was there was an error at the beginning (center) and the farther out the mistake was extended, the more glaring and the bigger the mistake would be. She referred to it as the principle of "compounding the error."

I've thought about this principle a lot lately as I've witnessed the response in my community and our state to the murder of George Floyd.

(continued on page 7)

Inside This Issue

- City Spotlight: Hermiston
- Partners in a Challenging Time
- Plans Change; Welcoming Spirit Remains
- My Mayor's Experience with COVID-19
- OMA Virtual Summer Conference
- Save the Date for OMA Fall Workshop
- OMA Board Seeks 2021 Applicants
- Calendar of Events
- OMA Listserv
- Crossword Puzzle

City Spotlight: **HERMISTON**

CITY SPOTLIGHT: HERMISTON – WHERE LIFE IS SWEET

Submitted by Hermiston Mayor Dave Drotzmann

You may know Hermiston for our watermelons, but there are plenty more things that make life sweet here in the heart of the Columbia Basin.

We're a rapidly growing community of more than 18,000 people and have been the largest city in Eastern Oregon since 2011. Our agricultural roots run deep and our location at the crossroads

of Interstates 84 and 82, as well as our proximity to two Columbia River ports, puts us square in the middle of the Pacific Northwest. Large companies including Walmart, FedEx and UPS have located here to take advantage of our transportation hub, and agricultural producers like Lamb Weston and Shearers Foods have tapped into our food production capabilities.

Data centers have also made the Columbia Basin a focal point, relying on our low-cost electricity and easy access to water. This relationship has added a new technical job sector and provided a steady source of revenue through enterprise zone funds.

But even as we've grown, the community has held fast to our values of inclusiveness and fellowship. We host the annual Umatilla County Fair and Farm-City Pro Rodeo at the newly constructed Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center, as well as many other events at a variety of indoor and outdoor venues across town. We take pride in welcoming visitors and new residents alike.

Because of new job opportunities, Hermiston attracts many young families. Our schools are a critical part of our community, and we celebrate and cheer on the 5,600-plus students who are enrolled. Voters in 2019 approved an \$82.7 million bond measure to build a sixth elementary school and add on to Hermiston High School as we make room for new students each year.



Growing Downtown

Hermiston was incorporated in 1907, bringing together two sides of a rail line running north to south. Highway 395 was built along the same route in 1926, and the city has looked for ways to create a unified downtown core ever since.

In 2013 the city created the Hermiston Urban Renewal Agency as part of its effort to revitalize the downtown area. By assisting a developer relocate a sewer main and vacate a portion of a dead-end road, the city cleared the way for a \$7 million, 96-room Holiday Inn Express. The local developer who sold the land for the project invested in two nearby event centers, the Maxwell Event Center and Maxwell Pavilion.

Its first major city project was creating the Festival Street, a multi-use space near Main Street, City Hall, and the Public Library. The single block of road can be closed to hold events and has been used for public and private gatherings alike.





To the north of the Festival Street, the city assisted in the construction of the new Harkenrider Senior Center, named for longtime resident, city councilor, and community champion Frank Harkenrider. The building was made possible through a \$2 million Oregon Community Development Block Grant and will serve dual purposes as a senior center with room for other community events.

Other downtown dining options have flourished with the growth. The Union Club restaurant and coffee shop, a throwback to a popular gathering spot in the mid-20th century, was refurbished in a historic two-story space on Main Street that had recently stood empty. A mobile vendor food pod near the city's centerpiece McKenzie Park offers a variety of cuisine.

Preparing for Growth

As with many cities in Oregon, much of Hermiston's infrastructure was developed in the mid-20th century and is nearing, or beyond, its expected life. To address the need for modern and reliable city services, Hermiston has created a Capital Improvement Plan to lay out high-priority long-term projects. The first five years of the plan include \$20 million in projects.

The plan also encourages the utilities and street departments to work on projects in tandem. A major repaving project on Hermiston Avenue in the summer of 2019 gave the water department the ability to replace nearly century-old valves, rather than waiting for catastrophic failure to dig into the road.

Since the plan's implementation we have completed a bridge replacement, upgraded more than 600 feet of sewer line, and paved a road to connect a new housing development and the planned elementary school into the city's road network.

To help residents track the projects and see where their tax dollars are being spent, the city created

www.hermistonprojects.com. The site is updated regularly, providing a snapshot of each project including purpose, a timeline, and estimated and final costs. The site also includes a map to show where work will be happening.

Creating a Hometown

Housing remains a top priority for residents and the city council alike. The city issued 175 stick-built homebuilding permits between 2017-2019, which doesn't account for mobile homes or apartment buildings. Development of mid- to low-income housing has been a priority and we have worked on zoning ordinances to allow more mixed-use and flexible requirements to entice development.

In a partnership with Umatilla County, we have invested a total of \$4.5 million of enterprise zone funds to extend utilities to support residential growth. This included a water tower on the hill on the north side of town that has decreased the strain on our water system.

The median housing price is around \$230,000 in the area, higher than most other communities in Eastern Oregon but markedly lower than the Tri-Cities about 30 miles to the north in Washington, which has a metro population of about a quarter million.

Along with new developments, we have worked to create a more livable city through Parks and Recreation programming and facilities. This includes a 3-mile Oxbow Trail circuit that connects the Umatilla River and the Hermiston Butte, our two most prominent local geographic landmarks.

And of course, there's the famous watermelon, one of the many agricultural products we harvest and provide nationwide each summer. Because of the hot days and cool nights, the melons we grow are especially delicious. It's one of the many reasons we like to say Hermiston – Where Life is Sweet!



Partners in a Challenging Time

Mike Cully, Executive Director, League of Oregon Cities

While the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) and the Oregon Mayors' Association (OMA) have always worked together, there's been nothing quite like this crisis that's galvanized our partnership.

While we have all been challenged with finding new ways to work, leveraging technology and settling-in to a new normal, relationships and partnerships have never been more important. Collaboration has propelled both the LOC and the OMA to a new level of significance in the state. When so many are looking for leadership and direction, both organizations have stepped-up in an amazing way.

The voice of the OMA has been strong and unwavering from the start of this crisis. Association President Steve Callaway has provided steadfast leadership and been a strong voice for cities across the state. Because of this, the organization has taken on a heightened level of importance in strategically handling this crisis by advocating for support to cities.

As it stands now, 50% of municipalities under 50,000 in population nationwide are anticipating having to cut public services. That's the vast majority of cities here in Oregon, and while the state is better off than others, the financial impact to cities is a lagging indicator. Other statistics bear out those numbers. In a study issued by the US Conference of Mayors, 26% of municipalities with a population of 50,000 or less say they will have to furlough their employees with an equal number reporting this to be the case with layoffs as well.

With this daunting news, it became increasingly important to leverage our combined resources to form a strong coalition to advocate for city support at the federal and state levels. This partnership has proven critical as it has amplified our efforts by effectively assuring that the needs of all cities in our state were considered before orders were issued.

As we continue to navigate the public health crisis part of this disaster, it's the economic fallout that increasingly

concerns both our organizations. To that end, the collaboration and information-sharing will continue, as this event has fundamentally changed the way we work together, both now and in the future. This reciprocal relationship will be critical for our advocacy efforts.

On the frontline is both the funding being made available through stimulus packages to the states, and from the states to the counties and cities. In Oregon the OMA, LOC and AOC have been working hard to make sure our cities get the financial relief they need – not only for healthcare related expenses – but also to prop-up a badly damaged economy.

In the United States, cities provide essential services for more than 200 million residents across the country, including police, fire and sanitation. Relief for cities translates directly into quality of life for residents.

Local government are being charged with executing the COVID-19 response, and that should mean ALL cities receive federal, and in turn state support to get through and recover from this crisis. The first federal Coronavirus legislation was passed in mid-March – and there has been no direct aid provided to most cities here in Oregon.

The OMA, LOC and AOC are working hard and in the best interests of our counties and cities to make sure that there is appropriate investment in local government. Cities are the engine of the American economy and they create the atmosphere for business to thrive and allow residents to make a good living. In turn, local officials understand the needs of our communities and what to do with any federal aid we receive. Direct, robust aid is not about "bailing out" local governments that have done something wrong – it is about providing much-needed support to those who acted quickly to execute the national response and recovery.

Now more than ever partnerships are critical in rebuilding Oregon. Working together the OMA, LOC and AOC will continue to advocate for the funding that's needed to make that happen.

Plans Change; Welcoming Spirit Remains

By Christine Lundberg, Mayor, Springfield

The City of Springfield, Oregon was proud to be selected as the home of the men's and women's 20-kilometer race walk of the 2020 U.S. Olympic Team Trials.

We were planning our efforts to ensure an extraordinary experience, collaborating with our local businesses, and getting ready to welcome track fans from all over the globe. The excitement was building!

And then ... plans changed.

The COVID-19 pandemic affected the plans of many communities as important and necessary health restrictions were ordered, ultimately requiring the postponement of popular activities such as the Olympic Trials.

We support the decision to prioritize health and suspend planning.

While the event cannot take place this year, there are still a lot of ways to safely enjoy and explore the Springfield community while supporting the businesses who were looking forward to the increased activity the Olympic Trials would have brought this summer.

The selection of our City to host this event was not by chance but because of our long history of supporting the Track and Field Trials, a wealth of natural amenities, unique businesses, and proximity to the many Oregon destinations our area offers to visitors and residents alike.

"With its storied connections to many track and field icons, vibrant downtown streets, and passionate business and community leaders, Springfield was a natural choice to serve as a host city of the Olympic Trials," said Michael Reilly, CEO of TrackTown USA, the organization responsible for delivering the event.

Springfield is nestled between the McKenzie and Willamette rivers – two favored natural amenities for boaters, fishers, rafters, swimmers, and other water enthusiasts. We're only minutes from local wineries, just an hour from the beautiful Oregon coast and two hours from Bend or Portland.

Springfield is home to an award-winning parks system thanks to the work of our partners at Willamalane Park and Recreation District. From disc golfing to mountain biking – we have it. Take a stroll or bike ride along the Mill Race Path and into Downtown Springfield.



You can safely take a self-guided Mural Tour throughout our downtown where visitors will find The Official Simpsons Mural and the Ken Kesey Mural among many more.

Downtown Springfield businesses have had to adjust and find new ways of providing services but the welcoming spirit has stayed strong.

The City has been working closely with our business community to understand their needs and to develop a long-range recovery plan to support their paths to a "new normal."

Additionally, we've been responsive to immediate needs such as facilitating the ability for restaurants to offer curb-side take out in the early days of the State Stay at Home Order. Most recently, the Springfield City Council approved options for businesses to expand outside seating to allow greater opportunity and flexibility for safe and vibrant operations. Visitors will continue to find the wide array of creatively imagined and thoughtfully crafted items, foods and beverages. With beautiful storefronts reopened for business and sidewalk seating set below the thousands of sidewalk 'twinkle' lights, Downtown Springfield is a perfect family place on any day or evening.

"While the postponement of the Olympic Trials is impactful, it's only part of the story we're all navigating," said Springfield Mayor Christine Lundberg. "In the months ahead, we welcome you to explore our great City and support our local businesses."



My Mayor's Experience with COVID-19

By Beth Wytoski, Mayor, Dayton

service, public safety, and communication turned to the management of a global pandemic. Budget planning gave way to economic relief plans and community events faded away as parks and public spaces were closed. COVID-19, novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, this virus, “by any other name” would be just as disruptive.

One thing I’ve learned in a dozen years in public office is that every city operates differently. No matter how close in proximity, population, or charter, we all govern our own way. This means I’m unable to share “the Mayor’s experience” with COVID-19 but I can share “my Mayor’s experience.”

March 10 was a relatively normal day as Mayor. There were confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Oregon; we were watching its spread closely. We were aware of the shortages of PPE and tests, but it wasn’t directly affecting our lives in rural Yamhill County. I met with our City Manager that morning and we talked about upcoming RFPs, council goals, and some staff changes. That afternoon I interviewed applicants for the budget committee and reviewed the summaries with our Recorder. March 12 was the pivot day for me. Advice evolved to mandate within hours which would become executive orders within days. Rumors and predictions abound, my concern grew. That evening I spent hours reading about emergency management resources, statutes on state of emergency declarations, and our local charter and rules. I worked into the morning hours to figure out how to create an effective, compliant resolution that would allow us budget flexibility and efficiency without causing panic. At 1:40 am, I sent my state of emergency draft to our City Attorney.

March 13 was a day of networking, communications, and decisions. Our school district was already closed but I reported to the high school with my colleagues to sanitize

Mayors around Oregon, the United States, and the world have had a very different job this year. Water and sewer

our classrooms and help kids empty their lockers for what we thought would be an extended spring break. I left at noon to go to City Hall. For the first time in my elected life, I issued a state of emergency. I also asked staff to quickly notice and plan for an emergency meeting that would be in only 4 hours “and please move the entire setup to the community center” because we were inviting the School Board to join us to talk about joint communication, resource sharing, and facilities use. That whole day felt 100 mph and that I think was likely a broadly shared experience.

Every day since has been full of conference calls, Zoom meetings, regional networking, creative thinking, and some actual problem solving here and there. There have been supplemental checks to the food pantry, delivery of home-packed food boxes, the elimination of late fees and suspension of utility shut-offs.

There’s also the double standard of leadership. Another shared experience, I suspect, is the pressure (internal or external) to set an example. Make sure you’re properly spaced before a photo is posted to social media. Make sure you’re masked if going to the grocery store. Try not to buy non-essential things. Work from home effortlessly, while caring for your children and make sure they keep up with their school assignments. Don’t go to the beach, no matter how beautiful it looks. Be discerning and critical but don’t undermine state agencies or other leaders. While communicating, speak clearly and indicate urgency. Relay the seriousness of the situation but don’t create panic, don’t cause fear. Smile while you talk about the closures and everything people can do to help each other. Distribute messages in multiple languages through diverse platforms: written, spoken, video, newsletter, and social media posts.

One bit of peace for me has been connections with other Mayors. It’s been my check-ins with Mayor Callaway from Hillsboro to better understand the metro area and with Mayor Duffy from Elgin so I can hear how things are going in other parts of our great state. It’s been texts to other Mayors in this county, reminding them about leadership

town halls via Zoom. It's been sharing economic plans like our URBAN (Utility Rebates for our Businesses And Neighbors - my mom came up with the great name) program to reduce water bills for our residents and increase support for our businesses.

This is an unprecedented challenge and has caused devastating human and economic losses for many. It is also, as many difficult periods are, an opportunity to network, learn and grow. There have been opportunities to collaborate with other leaders, partners, and counterparts and see past party affiliation and political ideology. I have been amazed to see clubs, churches, and even children create programs to provide for basic needs and help keep the most vulnerable among us safe.

At this point, what I am focused on is hope. I hope things don't go back to normal. I hope we don't miss the lessons that are right here for us to learn. I hope we see how important connection is, for economic, community, and social-emotional health. I hope that when businesses re-open that we create a boom for them. I hope we support local establishments with our food, clothing, plant, gift, and entertainment purchases. I hope as incomes are restored that we improve our homes and yards and support local laborers with our projects. I hope we buy makeup, food, artwork, and Tupperware from our friends running home businesses. I hope we REALLY appreciate our time together. I hope we occupy our parks, trails, beaches, restaurants, and churches. I hope we greet our neighbors. I hope we shake hands, high five, and I'll just warn you all now - I am a hugger! I am going to hug longer and harder so be ready! I hope we build improved connections between our cities and within our own families. I hope we honor those lost and 'the helpers' who put their own health and safety on the line for us.

I just hope we make this world a little better and I think that starts with local leadership. It starts with us. Let's all 'lead on.'

President's Message

(continued from page 1)

Oregon was founded in racism. In the 1840s the Territorial Legislature passed Black exclusionary laws that forbade Blacks from moving into Oregon. Those residing here couldn't own property, couldn't enter into legal and binding contracts, and by law, every six months, were subject to up to 39 lashes in an attempt to drive them out. Our state's constitution included racist ideologies. Our state's history includes racist acts: a poll tax, a lynching, mock lynchings, a failure to pass a Senate bill making it a misdemeanor for any Oregon business to refuse service to members of a racial or religious minority, being among the last five American states to approve the 15th Amendment (89 years after it was ratified and became part of the US Constitution), and period of time with a politically active and influential KKK. In fact, it wasn't until 2002, with voter approval, that racist language was finally removed from the state constitution.

Our error of institutional and systemic racism has been compounded to this very day. As mayors we have a moral and ethical obligation to address this and dismantle this. I look forward to addressing this issue alongside you, learning with you, and making change together.

Steve Callaway, Mayor of Hillsboro
President of OMA



OREGON TRIVIA

Question: What is Oregon's second highest waterfall?

Answer on back page

Oregon Mayors Association

Virtual Summer Conference

August 6-7, 2020

Join Us For The 2020 Oregon Mayors Association Virtual Summer Conference!

Although we won't be able to see everyone in person this year, we are still excited to see you all virtually! The Conference Planning Committee has put together a great program for everyone to enjoy and learn together.

We are excited to announce that we will still be holding this years 14th Annual Silent Auction! All proceeds from the silent auction will go towards future scholarship opportunities. More information is available on the [OMA website](#).

[Registration is now open!](#)

Questions about the conference? Contact Kelly Richardson at krichardson@orcities.org

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM (subject to change)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	Newcomers Orientation
9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	Opening Ceremonies Presider: Mayor Steve Callaway, Hillsboro; OMA President
9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Breakout Sessions Economic Impact – State Economist or Tim Duy, University of Oregon Charter Review – Attorney with Beery Elsner Hammond
10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Break & Silent Auction
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Breakout Sessions Race in Oregon History – Kerry Tymchuk Emergency Management: Lessons Learned – Sonya McCormick
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	OMA Board Meeting

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Breakout Sessions Roundtables with Regional Solutions Coordinators (split up based on region) Equity Inclusion: Best Practices – Speakers TBD
9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Break & Silent Auction
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	General Session – Governor Kate Brown
11:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.	Break & Silent Auction
11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Awards Presentation (Student Contest and Mayors Leadership Awards)

SAVE THE DATE

OMA Virtual Annual Membership Meeting & Fall Workshop
October 15, 2020



OMA Fall Workshop and Membership Meeting Going Virtual

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the 2020 OMA Fall Workshop and Membership Meeting, which will take place in a virtual setting this year. More information to come – as it becomes available it will be posted on the OMA website at www.oregonmayors.org.

OMA Board Seeks 2021 Applicants

The Oregon Mayors Association is accepting applications from active OMA members for its 2021 Board of Directors. The OMA Nominating Committee will prepare a slate of officers including the president, president-elect, and three directors to the OMA Board for review and consent prior to the association's Annual Membership Meeting October 15, in a virtual setting due to the pandemic and limitations set by the governor.

Mayors interested in serving on the OMA Board of Directors for a three-year term beginning January 2021 are encouraged to submit an application, available at www.oregonmayors.com. Applications are due no later than **September 1, 2020**. Any questions may be directed to Kelly Richardson at krichardson@orcities.org or (503) 588-6550.



Calendar of Events

August 6-7, 2020
OMA Summer Conference
Virtual

October 13, 2020
OMA Board of Directors Meeting
Virtual

October 15, 2020
OMA Annual Membership Meeting and Fall Workshop
Virtual

October 14-15, 2020
LOC Annual Conference
Virtual

Listserv Reminder and Main Topics

The Oregon Mayors Association (OMA) listserv was established as a means for support and information sharing between OMA members. The listserv is currently hosted by the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) and a member of LOC staff monitors the listserv. Policies are established by the OMA Board of Directors.

Access to the listserv is provided to all OMA members. Access to the listserv is a privilege and not a right of membership. Failure to follow the listserv rules may result in sanctions up to and including removal from the listserv.

Forwarding listserv messages to outside parties should be done judiciously and within the spirit and intent of these rules.

COURTESIES & COMMON SENSE aka “THE RULES”)

Keep Your Posts Clean, Short and Succinct: When replying to a message, keep the part of the message you’re responding to, and delete the unnecessary material. Keep them short and succinct!

Watch the Subject Line: When you post, and the subject line no longer has any relevance regarding your topic, please change it to reflect whatever you are talking about. For example, if the subject line reads “Re: COLAs” and the message has started talking about “Job Descriptions,” change the subject line.

Prohibited Messages: Chain letters, urban legends and virus warnings. Keep these limited to your private mail outs only! Also prohibited: messages with bias against a protected class.

Privacy: This is a restricted listserv. Use of the membership listserv for marketing or other purposes not related to the purposes of OMA is considered a serious violation of the Rules.

Flaming and Mud Slinging: Flaming, mudslinging and bashing or attacking other listserv members is not allowed. Please allow everyone to speak their mind in a friendly way and respect the fact that we can’t all agree all the time.

Off-Topic Posts: This listserv is about management of local government and professional support, sometimes our conversations stray off topic. If you are talking about anything that isn’t related, please indicate that in the subject line by typing “OT” (off-topic) in the subject line. That way, those who wish to skip the off-topic thread can do so easily. Better yet, please take it from the listserv and e-mail the person privately.

Questions: If a listserv member has any questions regarding this policy and how it might affect information contained in a post, he/she should contact the President before posting the message.

Violations/Penalties: The President may impose sanctions on a member who violates the rules governing the use of the listserv. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to:

- Warning;
- Reprimand;
- Suspension of listserv privileges for up to 60 days; or
- Termination of listserv privileges.

Please remember to be courteous to others while on the listserv, this is a service that is provided for current topics and collaboration for the entire OMA. The main topics for this quarter have been regarding the pandemic, economic recovery and opening Oregon.

Have You Visited OMA’s New Website?

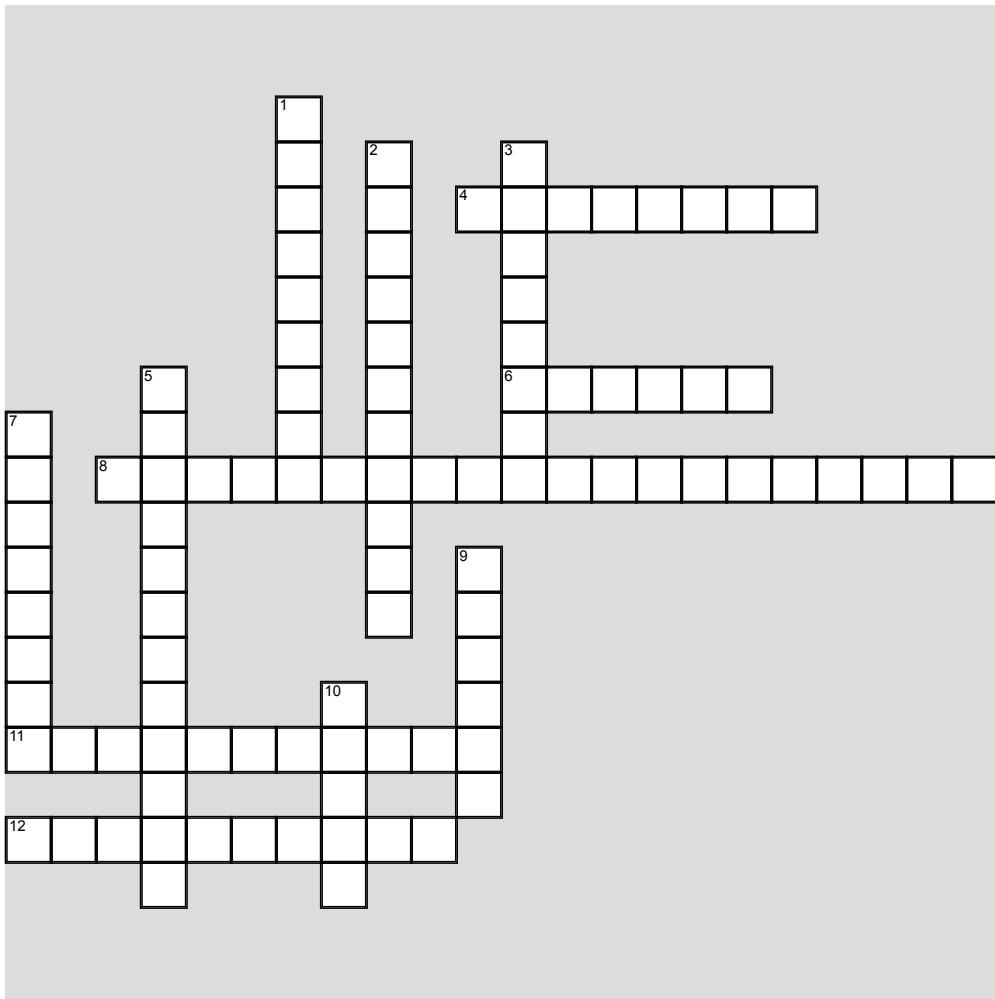
The OMA launched their new website earlier this year and contains information about OMA programs, upcoming events, Board of Directors, and more. Any feedback or comment on the new website are greatly encouraged and appreciated. Feedback can be provided to Kelly Richardson at krichardson@orcities.org.

Visit the website at www.oregonmayors.org.



All About Salem, Oregon

Teacher: Terri Ault



Across

- 4 Indigenous tribe and the original inhabitants of the area now known as Salem.
- 6 What is the oldest industry in Salem?
- 8 Name the university, located in Salem, that was started by missionaries and originally named the Oregon Institute.
- 11 What is the name of the capitol city of the 33rd state?
- 12 Who is the Salem's largest employer?

Down

- 1 A Kalapuya word meaning possibly "resting place" or "meeting place" and is commonly heard in the Salem area because of a local community college.
- 2 90% of the world's supply of this berry is grown in and around Salem.
- 3 Name the missionary that came to Oregon in 1834 with the goal of creating a school to educate and civilize the Indigenous population and ultimately led to the establishment of Willamette University.
- 5 What waterway did Virgil K. Pringle name after himself?
- 7 Marion County is not the county's original name. What was the county's names prior to 1849?
- 9 In what county is Salem, Oregon located?
- 10 What is the name of the capitol city of the 33rd state?

Answers on back page



STRENGTH IN UNITY

1201 COURT ST. NE, #200
SALEM, OREGON 97301

Trivia Answer (page 7):

Salt Creek Falls in the Cascade Mountain range drops 286 feet.

Crossword Puzzle Answer Key

