



NEWSLETTER

STRENGTH IN UNITY

Third Quarter 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I hope everyone enjoyed their time in Hood River for this year's OMA Summer Conference. Hood River is a charming and picturesque getaway. We welcomed many

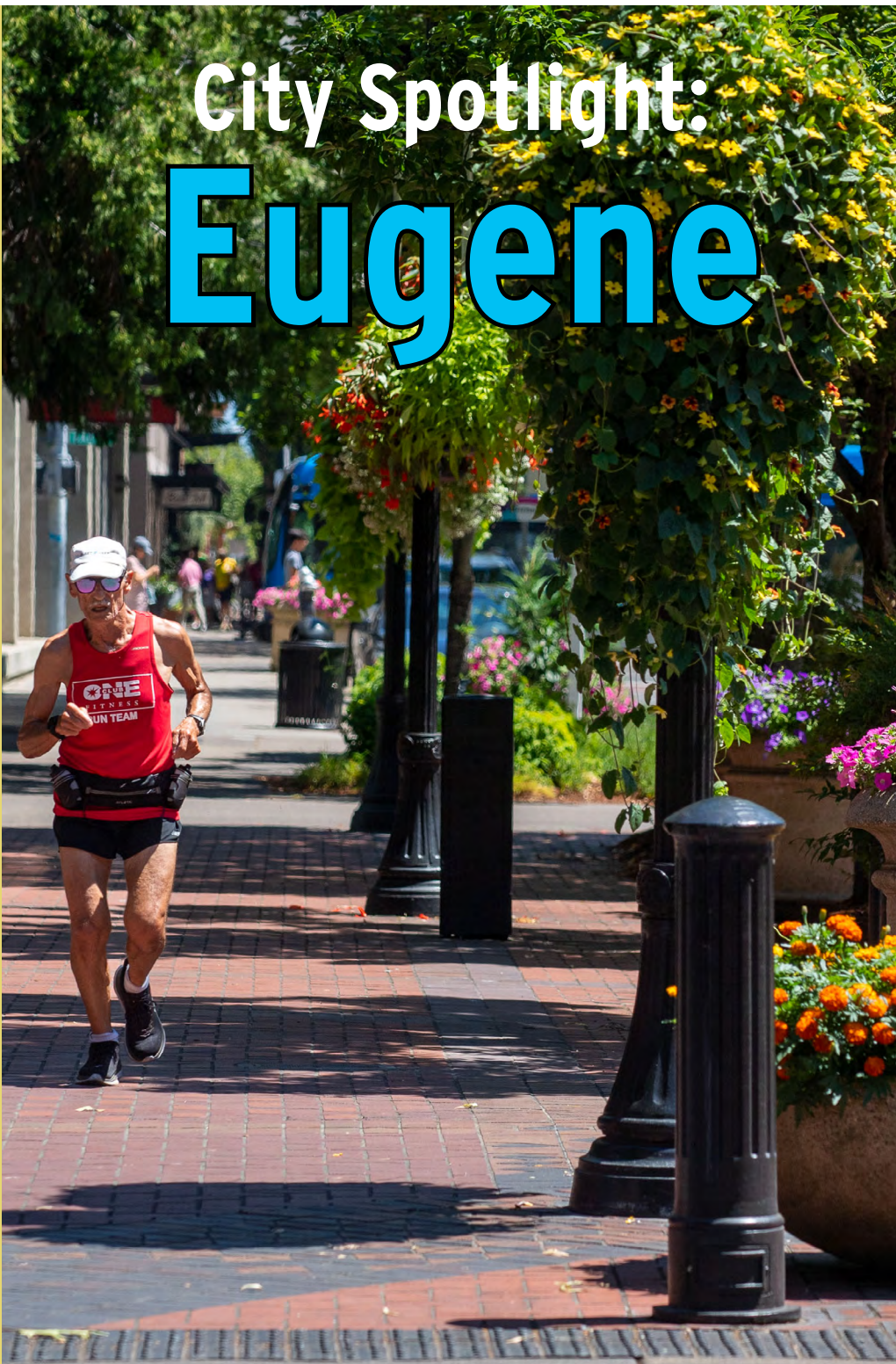
new mayors and first-time conference goers this year and were thrilled that you joined us and provided your unique perspectives and ideas. We are also grateful that Mayor Blackburn welcomed us in a very memorable fashion.

As mayors, we deeply value the richness that diverse perspectives bring and recognize the significance of acknowledging differing viewpoints. With more

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City Spotlight: Eugene

CITY SPOTLIGHT:

EUGENE

By Lucy Vinis, Eugene Mayor

Welcome to Eugene!

We are excited to host the annual conference of the League of Oregon Cities October 12-14. There is so much to see and do in our city, and we are happy to take this opportunity to share about the policies and investments that Eugene has made to support our growing community and respond to ongoing needs. As fellow mayors, I suspect that many of you will recognize many of Eugene's efforts reflected in your own city's work. I look forward to visiting with you in October, and sharing the stories of how we try to better serve our communities.

— Eugene Mayor Lucy Vinis

Downtown and Riverfront

Downtown Eugene is the social, economic and cultural heart of our community. It's where we come to take in a show, engage with local government, or meet up with friends for a coffee or a night on the town. That said, some of our community's most vexing challenges are evident in the social and physical environment downtown, and it takes innovative partnerships and solutions to tackle them.

Together with private and non-profit partners, the City is taking action on opportunities in five main areas of focus: Public Safety and Social Services, Physical Improvements, Cultural Programming and Events, Economic Development; and Communications. The City's Urban Renewal Agency leads the City's redevelopment efforts by investing in infrastructure and community assets such as the new Farmers Market Pavilion in the heart of downtown.

The Urban Renewal Agency is also leading the transformation of the Downtown Riverfront neighborhood into the



community's decades-long vision of a vibrant, active, and accessible riverfront district filled with community destinations and housing. Eugene's Downtown Riverfront Neighborhood connects our Downtown and University of Oregon campus to the Willamette River and creates more access points for the community to enjoy. The new three-acre Downtown Riverfront Park opened last summer offering broad river views, new bicycle and pedestrian paths, covered seating and overlooks.



Housing and Homelessness

Housing and homelessness have been two of Eugene's greatest challenges in recent years. Responding to a housing shortage and 3,500 unsheltered people, the City of Eugene has taken bold action beyond traditional municipal purview.

The City invested \$25.4 million in the 2022 and 2023 fiscal years for infrastructure and programs to create critical, lower-barrier emergency shelters; and to manage safety and sanitation community-wide. The heart of this effort applies \$8.4 million in one-time state and federal funds to add 250 new spaces in five locations – Safe Sleep sites – that meet state requirements for non-congregate shelter and facilitate connecting with services.

To address sanitation, public safety and access, the City has processed more than 20,000 requests for service related to impacts of unsanctioned camping in public spaces, and completed more than 12,000 work orders over the last two years.

As one-time funds expire, the City worked with the local Multi-Agency Coordinating Group to receive funds from the governor's All In homelessness response. That adds \$2.4 million to improve shelters, and further state funding should allow the City to operate these programs through FY25.

Addressing Eugene's affordable housing crisis, the City created a comprehensive, five-year approach to boost housing and shelter of all types: the Housing Implementation Pipeline (HIP). In the last year, the City supported the creation and opening of 167 units, and awarded critical investments to future development.



Additional shelter space is a must, with current capacity less than a third of the unhoused population. The city also needs more affordable and supported housing to bring people out of homelessness, and prevent others from becoming homeless. Significant ongoing state and federal support is key to securing these critical demands.



Climate Action

Eugene boasts a rich history of innovation, vision and commitment to sustainability and climate action. From the Sustainable Business Initiative to the adoption of our pioneering Climate Recovery Ordinance which established Eugene as one of the country's first cities to include climate goals in its municipal code, Eugene has pursued ambitious strategies to meet our sustainability objectives. This has included a commitment to equity within our climate initiatives that builds on an extensive legacy of sustainability and environmental stewardship.

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City Spotlight (continued)

Adopted by city council in 2021, Eugene's Climate Action Plan (CAP) 2.0 focuses on fortifying our community's resilience while mitigating the impacts of climate change which are increasingly affecting cities throughout Oregon. Eugene has emphasized community-focused transportation projects, housing, compact development and urban forestry, providing the vital resources and infrastructure to bolster community sustainability and climate resilience. Eugene's climate journey has also benefitted from collaboration with community and regional partners to help imagine and pursue innovative ideas to reduce emissions, improve health outcomes and support local economic progress.



Fire Resiliency

With nearly 3,000 acres of City-owned Wildland Urban Interface lands in our community, wildfire resiliency is a significant focus for the Eugene-Springfield metro area. Both cities recently received a grant award to establish a specific plan for unique risks and mitigation efforts within Lane County's Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Over the last 15 years, Eugene Parks and Open Space and Eugene Springfield Fire (ESF) have worked to improve community wildfire preparedness along with local partners. The Eugene City Council and ESF have helped homeowners create defensible space around their homes through a partnership with Northwest Youth Corps. Youth receive job training while reducing the likelihood of property loss in the event of a wildfire. During fire season ESF staffs additional brush engines that are designed to respond quickly to fires in rugged terrain, and in 2021 ESF partnered with Lane County Emergency Management to develop emergency evacuation zones. This dynamic tool enables community members, emergency services, emergency managers, and 9-1-1 to be on the same page should a mass evacuation be required.

Grants totaling about \$1 million from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and Oregon Department of Forestry have funded fuels reduction projects to remove dense overgrown vegetation from 900 acres in 21 natural area parks near homes, businesses, and critical infrastructure. Parks also annually maintains fuel breaks and works with partner agencies to plan and implement a prescribed burn program.

I hope you will have an opportunity to see and experience Eugene's downtown and riverfront for yourself, whether you find yourself in the area for the LOC Conference, cheering on the Ducks at Autzen, Hayward, or Matthew Knight Arena, taking in a performance at the Hult Center, or just enjoying some time in our beautiful city. Oregon has a whole lot to offer, and we're proud of Eugene's contributions. We can't wait to see you!



Trivia Question:

Which country artist wrote a song titled Eugene, Oregon after receiving multiple standing ovations from the crowd when they were still a young artist and homesick for Tennessee?

2023 Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Location
October 11	OMA Board Meeting	Eugene
October 12	OMA Fall Workshop & Annual Membership Meeting	Eugene
October 12-14	LOC Annual Conference	Eugene
December 5	OMA Board Meeting	North Plains

Did you know all elected officials are mandatory reporters?

With the passage of HB 3071 during the 2021 legislative session, all elected officials are required to report suspected child abuse. Reports of suspected child abuse may be made by calling 855-503-SAFE (7233). Mandatory reporters are also required to complete a 30-minutes training video, which is accessible by visiting the Oregon Department of Human Services website at www.oregon.gov/odhs and clicking on the "Report Abuse" header located at the top of the page. If you have questions about mandatory reporting please contact Jayme Pierce, LOC General Counsel, at jpierce@orcities.org.



SAVE THE DATE

OMA Summer Conference

July 18-20, 2024

Running Y Ranch,
Klamath Falls



2023 OMA Summer Conference Wrap-Up

By Teri Lenahan, North Plains Mayor and OMA President

We had a beautiful backdrop in Hood River for the OMA Summer Conference. I want to thank and honor Mayor Blackburn for sharing the Columbia River Gorge Commission Land Acknowledgment of the Indigenous people who protect this beautiful area of Oregon and for his rendition of Woody Guthrie's song, 'Roll on Columbia.'

Planning the OMA Summer Conference is a team effort. I want to thank Angela Speier for keeping Mayors Balensifer, Cross, Koontz, Martell, Trett, Rosener, Sell and myself on task, while planning a conference that we all could enjoy. I also want to thank all the mayors who stepped up to facilitate the sessions. It's encouraging to hear that the conference enabled informal conversations where new and returning mayors could learn how different cities respond to a variety of issues. The idea of learning from each other's triumphs, challenges and ingenious solutions really hits home, that's how growth and progress happen, right?

And can we take a moment to appreciate the fact that there's life beyond the mayor's office? Being good leaders isn't just about work, it's also about having a balanced life with our families' encouragement. Thank you to spouses, Patty Nevue, Independence; Chris Wytoski, Dayton; and Bob Renfrom, Wilsonville, who shared their stories during the "Being a Mayor, It's a Family Affair" session. Families play a huge role in our success and we hope they had a relaxing time as well.

The recreational activities like the golf game, public art walk through Hood River, and the mural tour directed by Rich Mays, Mayor of The Dallas, was a fantastic way to explore the Columbia River Gorge. After the "Newcomer's Orientation," which was attended by 17 mayors, I took the 5-mile Guided E-bike Tour along the Historic Columbia River Highway from Hood River to Mosier. If you get a chance to come back to Hood River, you've got to take this tour. I appreciated the history lesson along the way and the restoration efforts for the Mosier Twin Tunnels and the Oneonta Tunnel, along with the spectacular views and natural beauty of the Columbia River Gorge (and the e-bike was pretty easy to maneuver).

The mix of topics covered during the conference – from Urban Renewal, Homelessness, Broadband and City Revenue – demonstrates how comprehensive and

forward-thinking our event was. We welcomed LaNicia Duke, founder of the Black Rural Network, as our Keynote Speaker who offered her perspective on critical topics. Many mayors today have young families or are caring for parents and a full-time paying job on top of being a civic leader. Newly elected Mayor, Malynda Wenzl, and returning Mayor, Tami Kaufman, presented about "Balancing City Leadership, their Day Jobs and Family Life." While Mayor Jim Trett facilitated a very interesting discussion on "Making Communities Livable for All Ages," presented by Stacy

Larsen and Bandana Shrestha from AARP Oregon. Patty Mulvihill's presentation on "How State & Federal Courts Have Impacted Oregon Cities" was well received by many mayors. For example, one mayor I spoke with didn't realize "all local government elected officials are considered mandatory reporters." Perhaps this session is something we can use for future conferences. However, the most heartwarming events for many mayors, is to hear from the "If I Were Mayor..." contest winners. This contest provides a platform for students to showcase their creative visions and enthusiasm for their cities, but it is also a





reminder of the incredible potential that lies within our youth. Congratulations to the winners. These students are remarkable.

Well, another OMA Summer Conference is in the books! I'm already thinking about next year. I truly hope you found value in time spent being around your peers, I know I did. It was clear the effort put into planning and organizing the conference paid off. This conference is not a meeting of the minds, it is more like a retreat that brings us together to relax, learn and share our stories. It was wonderful to recharge, have fun and enjoy moments with friends. Thanks again for being a part of a special group of leaders and thank you for serving your communities with integrity.



We look forward to seeing you next year in Klamath Falls.



THANK YOU

2023 OMA SUMMER CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE SPONSORS

PLATINUM SPONSORS



PRESIDENTIAL SPONSOR



BREAKOUT SESSION SPONSORS



ELITE SPONSORS



SUSTAINING SPONSOR



SUPPORTING SPONSOR



OMA “If I Were Mayor” Contest Winners

By Mayor Rod Cross, Toledo

For many years the Oregon Mayors Association (OMA), has coordinated with local schools around the state to promote the OMA’s “If I Were Mayor” contest. The contest is divided into three grade groups, and each group has a particular medium in which to provide their vision.



Noah Gabriel Salazar

A 4th or 5th grade student has an opportunity to create a poster that reflects their desires, while middle schoolers (grades 6-8) are tasked to showcase their dream via an essay. Lastly, those students in grades 9-12 are to produce a vision using digital media. The contest is open to all students whether they are in public, private, or home school settings.



Sophia Lu

Those winning First place statewide in each of the three categories were awarded \$500 and are publicly presented with their award at the awards luncheon held during the OMA Summer Conference in Hood River. Second and third place winning students won \$300 and \$100 respectively and received their prizes at local city or school presentations.



Kassidy Poetzel

There were 46 entries statewide, as students from 26 cities submitted their ideas. The awards committee had their hands full making the tough decisions, as there were many great entries.

It was my honor and privilege to present the awards to our three winners in their respective age groups. All three

winners were definitely deserving of their honors, and I think that our future is in good hands.

Noah Gabriel D. Salazar, an Albany 5th grade student of Timber Ridge School, won the first-place prize for his poster in the Elementary School category. Mayor Johnson of Albany better watch out, as Noah proved to be a highly competent public speaker with eyes on his office!

Sophia Lu, an 8th grader at Lake Oswego Junior High School, was awarded first place for her essay. Sophia’s entry reflected her dream for Lake Oswego with style and energy!

In the High School Contest, **Kassidy Poetzel**, a 12th grader at Bridge Charter Academy in Cottage Grove, presented a video that wowed the crowd with her vision of how local politics should work.

Second-place winners in this year’s statewide contest, each receiving a check for \$300 were:

- Poster – Adriana Draskovic, 5th grader at Happy Valley Elementary School;
- Essay – Saylor Sager, 6th grader at Duniway Middle School in McMinnville; and
- Video – Jacella Williams, 11th grader at West Albany High School.

Third-place prize winners in the statewide contest, each receiving a check for \$100 were:

- Poster – Maria Cecilia Gonzalez Solano, 4th grader at Witch Hazel Elementary in Hillsboro;
- Essay – Brooke Van Arsdall, 7th grader at St. Helens Middle School; and
- Video – Evonna West, 11th grader at Ridgeview High School in Redmond.

Each of these students that participated in this year’s contest showed that our future is in good hands going forward. All the cities and mayors that these students represent are proud and honored that these students took the time and effort to think civically and dream.

We need to continue to not only engage our youth, but we need to provide more ways for them to be engaged in all aspects of our civic life. The more they become involved, the better it will be, not only for our individual cities, but for our state and country as well!

The Dalles Mural Tour

To kick off the 2023 OMA Summer Conference Mayor Richard Mays and his partner Rose Mays led mayors through a tour of the murals located throughout The Dalles downtown. The Mays explained the majority of the downtown murals were painted by the Walldogs. The Walldogs are a group of highly skilled sign painters and mural artists dedicated to keeping the tradition of brush-to-brick sign artistry alive. The Walldogs converged on the city of The Dalles in August of 2022 and painted 15 new historical murals in five days as part of the Northwest MuralFest.

The murals were selected by a group of local historians and the MuralFest committee voted on the final 15 murals that were painted. The historians lived in The Dalles for many years and had sufficient knowledge and sensitivity towards the selection of appropriate mural themes that recognize the local history and cultural diversity. In addition, they avoided subjects that were either irrelevant to local history or insensitive to local cultures.

The Dalles murals are a beautiful way to tell the community's history through art. If you are ever in downtown The Dalles take a self-guided tour, a map of all the murals can be found at www.northwestmurfest.com.



Mayors Leadership Award – 2023 Recipients

The Leadership Award, the ultimate award for the Oregon Mayors Association, was established in 1993 to recognize the contributions Oregon Mayors make to their communities year after year. These awards celebrate mayors who have exemplified visionary leadership and have made substantial contributions to their respective cities and towns. These awards serve as a platform to showcase and commend their tireless efforts in enhancing the quality of life for residents and driving economic and social growth.

In a world where leadership is instrumental in driving progress and shaping communities, recognizing outstanding individuals who demonstrate exceptional dedication and innovation is crucial. The Oregon Mayors Association Leadership Awards stand as a shining example of how acknowledging these leaders can inspire positive change and foster a stronger, more interconnected society.



In the Small City category, the award was presented to **Detroit Mayor Jim Trett**. Mayor Trett received this award because of his dedication, determination, and tireless effort to bring his city back from the devastation of the 2020 Labor Day fires. With more than 80% of the city and its homes destroyed, Mayor Trett rolled up his sleeves and worked tirelessly with emergency responders, the

state and county governments, FEMA, ODOT, the U.S. Forest Service, the DEQ, and numerous other agencies to get services back online for the residents. He drove countless hours between two fairgrounds designated for rescue and recovery operations while continuing to work with his city council, city staff, and the many volunteers to keep people up to date on the progress of the rebuilding and associated rules, regulations, and funding. Mayor Trett has been instrumental in bringing Detroit's new sewer system online and working with volunteers to build a new city hall/civic center. He continues to bring people together to rebuild a better and stronger Detroit!



For the Medium City category, the award was presented to **Gold Beach Mayor Tamie Kaufman**. The seven people who nominated Mayor Kaufman for this award applauded her leadership style and ability to bring people together to make changes to improve her city. The nomination letters spoke about Mayor Kaufman's willingness to step up when others don't. She has navigated Gold Beach through complicated issues related to zoning, housing, short-term rentals, parks, and more. The letters also described how grateful community members are for Mayor Kaufman's leadership and that she embodies everything a mayor should be.



In the Large City category, the award was presented to **Hermiston Mayor Dr. Dave Drotzmann**. After serving two terms on the Hermiston School Board of Education, Mayor Drotzmann was first elected mayor in 2010. He has been a champion and advocate for his growing city, leading cooperative efforts with community groups and

residents and tirelessly promoting the city's programs and initiatives. His service as mayor has been marked by collaboration and mentorship as he has worked with elected officials and city staff towards the city's goals. Mayor Drotzmann is also bringing Hermiston's voice to statewide issues through his involvement with the League of Oregon Cities, where he currently serves as Vice-President and will lead the LOC Board as President in 2024. He has also been an active participant in the OMA Taskforce on Homelessness, working for viable solutions for all Oregon communities.

The recognition of mayoral leadership across these three categories is a celebration of the mosaic that is governance. It underscores the truth that leadership, though multifaceted, is united in its pursuit of creating better lives for residents. By honoring these three mayors, we acknowledge their role as stewards of progress, weaving together communities of all sizes into a tapestry of excellence. **Congratulations Mayor Trett, Mayor Kaufman and Mayor Drotzmann!**

The 2023 OMA Silent Auction was a Huge SUCCESS!

The annual silent auction emerges as a symbol of unity, propelling the OMA Conference Scholarship Fund to new heights. Each mayor is encouraged to bring a gift basket to the annual conference with the hopes of showcasing the heart of each city, while raising money for our scholarship fund. This year we saw record-breaking support for this event.

After the last auction table closed, a total of **\$9,716** was raised. The winner of the 50/50 Raffle graciously donated her winnings back to the scholarship fund, making

a record-breaking combined total of **\$10,416** raised this summer. It was truly a remarkable outcome. We provided 16 mayors with partial scholarships this year and are thrilled to be able to assist even more mayors next year.

A heartfelt thank you to the generous mayors and their communities for the incredible baskets this year. A giant shout-out goes to the bidders who made these baskets their own. Your support is deeply appreciated.

Engage the Students in Your Community!

Participate in the 2023 - 2024 “If I Were Mayor...” Student Contest

The “If I Were Mayor...” Student Contest has started! Each mayor is encouraged to promote a local contest by the same name over the course of the school year so that local entries can be submitted to the statewide competition in April. The OMA Board of Directors encourages you to speak with your local school district and youth organizations to encourage students to submit entries in three different categories:

- **Elementary School** (grades 4-5). Students in these grades are encouraged to submit posters detailing what they would do as mayor.
- **Middle School** (grades 6-8). Students in these grades are encouraged to submit essays detailing what they would do as mayor.
- **High School** (grades 9-12). Students in these grades are encouraged to submit a digital media presentation (formats allowed include: MP4 or online video format) detailing what they would do as mayor.

Submissions to the statewide competition are due **April 5, 2024**. Only one submission in each of the three categories is allowed per city.

Mayors should have received a packet of information on how to participate via email. To assist students in creating their entries, the OMA Board of Directors created educational materials outlining the role of a mayor and listing the services typically provided by cities in Oregon. These materials, along with an entry form for use in local contest, can be found on the OMA website at www.oregonmayors.org.

Judging for the statewide competition will take place in May. First-place winners will be invited to attend the awards luncheon held during the OMA Annual Conference in Klamath Falls on July 20, 2024.

For more information and examples of previous entries, please visit www.oregonmayors.org. Questions about the contest can be directed to Angela Speier at (503)540-6599 or aspeier@orcities.org.



LOC Women's Caucus Seeks Elected Leaders for Membership

The LOC Women's Caucus is encouraging women elected city leaders to declare their membership with the caucus and affirm that women play a critical leadership role in local politics.

Visit the Women's Caucus website for more information at www.orcities.org/about/who-we-are/loc-womens-caucus.



2023 Session Comes to a Close

By Jim McCauley, LOC Legislative Director

Oregon's 82nd legislative session ended at 4:27 p.m. on June 25, just seven and one-half hours short of the constitutional Sine Die at midnight. Back in January, there were signs that indicated

what the LOC and others would be in for. House leadership started the session off with a joint press conference focused on shared priorities from Republican and Democratic caucuses. The Senate, however, started the session off with each caucus criticizing each other's leadership and priorities. This contrast would play out over the course of the session with a 42-day boycott initiated by Senate Republicans, which denied the Senate majority a quorum to advance any legislation. This walkout was the Republican's response to their objections to HB 2002 (women's healthcare, abortion access and gender affirming care) and HB 2005 (gun safety), which were key Democratic priorities entering the 2023 session.

The boycott prevented floor votes, created a backup of 400-plus bills in the Senate and left the LOC and other interests wondering when and if the walkout would end. Once a negotiated agreement to return was brokered, enough Senate Republicans returned to the Senate floor on June 15.

The LOC's Priorities:

The LOC entered this session with a robust set of eight legislative priorities. Our efforts to advance these priorities was met with frustration and challenges throughout

much of the session. One key priority was a joint effort with the Oregon Mayors Association (OMA). This was a funding proposal which requested \$123 million directly to cities for homeless services and another \$170 million in one-time funding to stand up shelters, affordable housing, navigation centers and other key homeless infrastructure needs. Despite a session-long effort, the OMA and LOC were unable to secure direct resources to cities despite historically high funding for those services. Cities will have to rely on existing financial infrastructure to help fund local needs.

Economic development was also a key priority going into the session, with our focus on sunset extensions for Oregon's enterprise zone program and SIP-Gainshare. These legislative efforts were included in the second phase of Oregon's semiconductor package, HB 2009, which was developed to create an incentive package for the semiconductor industry to leverage \$52 billion of federal CHIPS Act investments. Although we came up short of our objective, these key programs will be extended into 2032 for the enterprise zones and 2030 for SIP-gainshare. We are hopeful with the addition of research and development (R&D) tax credits and an overall allocation of \$215 million, Oregon will be in a good position for additional investments from semiconductor manufacturers.

We found success with a series of transportation priorities, which focused on a three-session effort to extend the use of mobile and fixed photo radar for speed management to all cities through HB 2095, increased flexibility for "safe routes to school" program in HB 2099, and additional investment in the "great streets program" with HB 3113.

For more information about the legislation that passed and didn't pass make sure you attend a 3rd Quarter Small Cities meeting in your area to hear a legislative summary presented by the LOC Intergovernmental Relations Team. You can also visit the Advocacy tab on LOC's website at www.orcities.org to view the complete bill summary.

What's in a Name?

By Mayor Meadow Martell, Cave Junction

Did you know there are three mayors in Oregon with the same last name, pronounced the same but spelled three different ways? The name Beatty, Beattie, Beaty, Beatie, and all other spellings, is a surname of Scottish and Irish origin. In some cases it came from Bartholomew, which was often shortened to Bate or Baty. Male descendants were often called Beatty, or similar derivations like Beattie or Beatey. Most people named Beatty or Beattie in Ireland are the descendants of Scots who came over to Ulster in the seventeenth century. In the United States the name Beatty is the 1,141st most popular surname. Let's meet three outstanding Oregon mayors with this popular name spelled many ways.



Carol Beatty is the Mayor of Maupin, a city in Wasco County in Eastern Oregon. Maupin is located on the Deschutes River and much of the city's economy is related to the river through outdoor activities, such as fishing and

rafting. The population of Maupin is 431 (PSU Population Research Center 2022).

As a first-time mayor, Beatty brings a wealth of experience from 30 years as an educator, as well as the skills developed on the City Planning Commission and City Council. Mayor Beatty has the skills to solve problems, conduct long-range planning, and work with a wide range of people and situations. Her priorities for Maupin are hiring a city manager/administrator and as the city grows, planning for water system improvements and an updated sewer treatment facility to replace their aging facilities.

Mayor Beatty moved to Maupin six years ago after building a home there. She likes living in Maupin because it is a progressive community that cares for all its citizens and

visitors while protecting its natural resources and maintaining its rural heritage. Mayor Beatty enjoys meeting with the community and getting feedback about what is important to them.



Lisa (right) at a Halloween trick-or-treating event with former Councilor Wilda Parks in 2018. Photo credit: Hamid Shibata Bennett.

Lisa Batey is the Mayor of Milwaukie, population 21,305. Mayor Batey was born and raised in Oklahoma and lived in several states and three foreign countries before settling in Milwaukie in 2002. In her 21 years in Milwaukie, Batey has served on

numerous boards and commissions in the community including the City Planning Commission for nine years and eight years on City Council before being elected Mayor. She has served on the boards of the North Clackamas Watersheds Council and Celebrate Milwaukie, Inc., the community nonprofit that oversees the Milwaukie Farmers Market. In 2018, Batey was proud to serve as one of the founding board members of the new Milwaukie Parks Foundation. A lawyer by profession, Batey worked for the federal government until she retired in 2022.

Mayor Batey, and the Milwaukie City Council have established three main goals: advancing work on the City's Climate Action Plan; advancing community work on equity and social justice; and placing the parks system on better footing for the future. Batey is particularly proud of Milwaukie's Safe Access for Everyone (SAFE) program, in which the city is building several miles of pedestrian and bike paths, and sidewalks, to enhance the ability of residents to access schools, parks and services without a vehicle.



Lacey Beaty is the Mayor of Beaverton, population 99,464. After serving six years as city councilor, in 2021 she took office as the first female and youngest mayor in Beaverton history. Prior to serving as Mayor, she served for six years on Beaverton City Council. Before joining the City

Council, she was a volunteer for the city's Visioning Advisory Committee, serving as vice-chair. She is engaged in the community including serving on the boards of Home Plate Youth Services and Community Action. She commits to making her community even more diverse,

inclusive, and welcoming. Mayor Beaty has identified the homelessness crisis and the welfare of veterans as priority issues for her administration. Mayor Beaty was instrumental in establishing a year-round shelter with a health clinic and behavioral health resources to serve those experiencing homelessness.

Lacey and her husband Ian Beaty have lived in Beaverton since 2008. Her daughter Aella is the one who inspires and motivates her to keep doing the work every day to improve the community. Before entering politics, Mayor Beaty served five years of active military duty in the army as a radiology specialist and combat medic during the Iraq War. In 2016, she was named Outstanding Woman Veteran of the Year by the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs. She has also worked in public health, overseeing school-based health centers.

President's Message *(continued from page 1)*

mayors coming to our conferences and connecting with each other, our principal responsibility lies in leading with integrity and ensuring that the OMA remains accessible and equitable for all mayors, irrespective of their background.

We have the privilege of championing values such as respect, fairness, and empathy within our communities. These values are more than abstract ideals; they are the bedrock upon which we build more resilient and harmonious communities. Our capacity to unite our communities, rather than divide them, stems from our commitment to serve all individuals.

The focus of our conferences lends itself on enhancing your knowledge and skills as mayors. We can all agree that Oregon is a diverse state, and the focus at our conferences is to exchange ideas; it's the bedrock of our summer conference. We recognize we are not all going to agree on things, but as mayors we strive for consensus so that we can focus on areas where we do agree. In line with our commitment to foster understanding and collaboration, we appreciate the need to address topics such as diversity, equity and inclusion. DEI is complex and contentious and we need to appreciate the difficulties in addressing this in a politically and socially divided state.

As we move forward, we will strive to create opportunities for meaningful conversations on diversity in leadership and what that looks like in all Oregon cities. Honoring diversity aligns with our mission to foster cooperation and growth. By engaging in open dialogue and learning from one another, we are confident that we can continue to lead with purpose and drive positive change within our cities and beyond.

As I reflect on my role on the OMA Board and my responsibilities as a mayor, I am truly humbled by the invaluable feedback and meaningful discussions. I would like to express my deep gratitude to all the mayors who selflessly serve your communities. Your remarkable guidance, rooted in unwavering integrity, serves as a heartfelt inspiration to us all. Never stop learning!

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Teri".

Mayor Teri

OMA Launches Membership App

The new OMA app is NOW available in the App Store and Google Play Store. Stay up-to-date with OMA news and content, navigate events, and message with other members all in one place. Download now and start connecting!

OMA APP USER GUIDE

Getting Started

STEP 1

Download the App!

SCAN



Apple

SCAN



Google Play



Determining your username and password

Your username and password are the same as your log in credentials with the League of Oregon Cities (LOC). If you update your password on the LOC site you will need to enter your new password into the app.

STEP 2

Enter your username and password

Username: your city email

Password: Mayors2023

STEP 3

Enjoy the App! Get the latest news and event info, connect with your peers and collaborate.

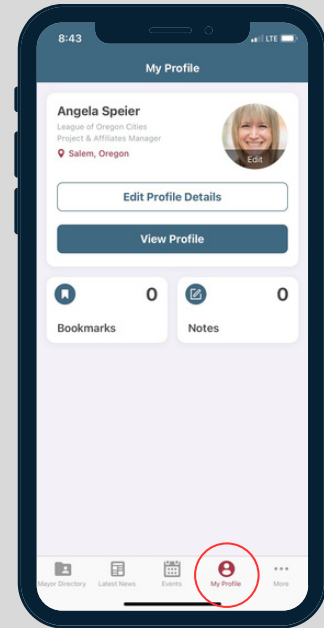
Don't have an account or having trouble logging in

Contact Angela Speier, OMA Staff Liaison at aspeier@orcities.org.

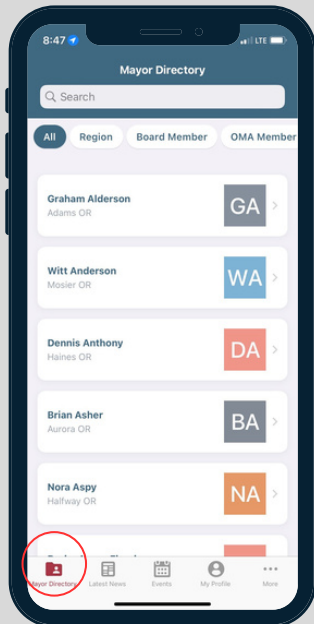
OMA APP USER GUIDE

PROFILE

- Take a few moments upon logging in to add a profile picture! Just click "Edit" on the picture and upload a saved picture or take one.
- Click "View Profile" to make sure all the information is correct. To add a cell phone number or update your number, click the "More" button next to My Profile. Then select "Settings" and "Contact Details" to add your cell number.
- Saved content from the News Feed will appear under the "Bookmarks" tab.
- You can create notes about other OMA members when you are viewing their profile that will then save under the "Notes" tab. These notes are only seen by you.



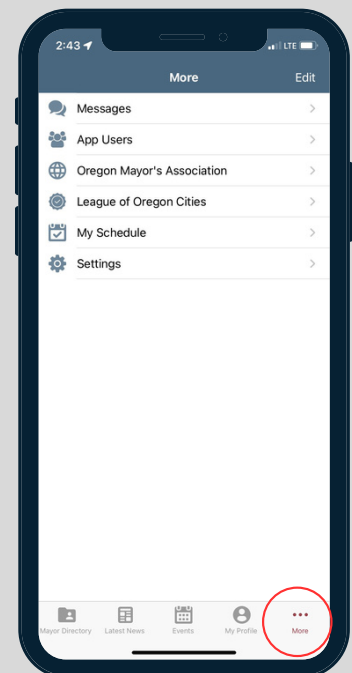
MAYOR DIRECTORY



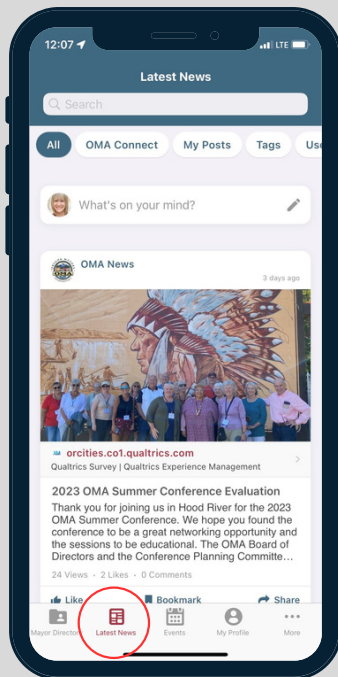
- Welcome to the new electronic member directory! This will replace the paper directory and is linked directly to the LOC's database, so contact information will remain up-to-date throughout the year.

MESSAGING

- Click "More" and "App Users" to see the full app user list and directly message a user by clicking on the message icon to the right of their name.
- Under "More" you can also send a direct message to another app user or create a group message by clicking on the "Message" menu item.
- To create a group message click "Group" at the top of page and the "+" symbol to add app users to your group message.
- Inside of messages, you can attach photos or files by clicking on the paperclip at the bottom of the message screen.



OMA APP USER GUIDE

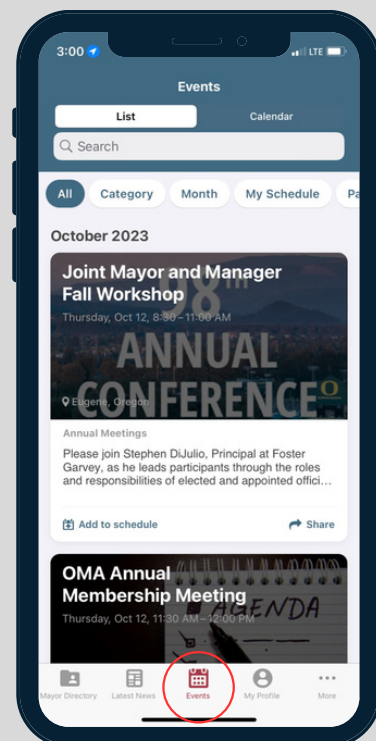


LATEST NEWS

- Keep up to date with happenings at the OMA and the LOC on this screen.
- The "Latest News" screen contains the OMA News Feed. In addition to news and information from the OMA, you can add content for OMA members.
- When you add content you can choose to post to All Users or Groups of OMA members you belong to. Be sure to allow comments when soliciting feedback.

EVENTS

- All OMA Events will display under the "Events" screen.
- For events like the OMA Summer Conference members can add sessions to the "my agenda" tab to keep track of which sessions you want to attend. To do this, switch over to the "Agenda" tab at the top, and click on the square + icon to the right of each session. This will automatically add the sessions to the "My Agenda" tab and you will have the option to also add it to your phone calendar.
- Speaker information and presentations can be found by clicking on the sessions.
- Current events will display when the "Events" screen is selected.
- Past events can be found by selecting the past tab at the top of the screen.





Key Judicial Decisions from the Last Year

Each year, state and federal judges issue significant decisions that have the potential to impact the way Oregon cities provide services, engage with constituents, interact with their employees, and manage their public spaces and property. While mayors are not expected to be lawyers, it is helpful for locally elected leaders to be aware of certain court decisions and discuss the implications of those decisions with their city managers/administrators/recorders and city attorneys. Over the last year, there were seven decisions that Oregon mayors should review with their particular policy and legal advisors.

Oregon Court of Appeals

Fields v. Newport

On July 6, 2023, the Oregon Court of Appeals issued a decision in *Fields v. Newport*, a case which has the potential to impact a city's recreational immunity.

Recreational immunity generally allows for landowners in Oregon, including local governments, to be immune from civil liability in the event a person is injured on their property, provided the injured person was recreating on the property, and the property owner did not charge a fee for access to the land.

In *Fields v. Newport*, a woman fell while she was walking home from the beach on a trail she used to get to and from Agate Beach. The trail was an improved trail, maintained by the city of Newport. A portion of the trail included a bridge, which was slippery. The woman fell on the bridge, breaking her leg. This woman sued the city of Newport for damages as a result of that fall.

When the lawsuit was filed, the city of Newport asserted recreational immunity, arguing that it is not liable for the city's injury because the woman's principal purpose in using the trail was for recreational purposes. The injured woman argues that her primary use of the trail was not recreational in nature, rather she was simply walking on the trail to get her to Agate Beach, and her recreational activities did not begin until she was actually on Agate Beach. Because the woman asserted she was not recreating on the trail when she fell, the city of Newport is not entitled to protections under the recreational immunity statute.

The Court of Appeals believes there is a factual dispute about how the woman was using the trail. Specifically, the Court stated, in relevant part, "walking may or may not be recreational ... Thus, walking can be a mode of conveyance by which one moves from point A to point B, and walking might also be an activity that is itself recreational, like taking a walk solely for the enjoyment of doing so ... 'walking' does not fit with the list of 'recreational purposes' in the recreational immunity statute because depending on the intent of the walk, it may not be recreational."

Multnomah County v. Corrections Deputy Association

Multnomah County and the union representing its corrections deputies had a difference of opinion surrounding the permissibility of midterm bargaining when an existing contract between the parties was in place. The Oregon Court of Appeals issued an opinion on January 20, 2022, in *Multnomah County v. Corrections Deputy Association* states that a governmental entity has a duty to bargain when:

continued on page 20

Key Judicial Decisions (*continued*)

- The union requests midterm bargaining,
- Over a mandatory subject of bargaining,
- Not specifically covered by the union agreement,
- Even in the absence of a unilateral change proposed or made by the governmental entity.

Oregon Supreme Court

E.J.T. v. Jefferson County

On September 22, 2022, the Oregon Supreme Court issued an opinion that has the potential to impact local governments who have employees that work with vulnerable persons. A vulnerable person means an elderly person, a financially incapable person, an incapacitated person, or a person with a disability who is susceptible to force, threat, duress, coercion, persuasion or physical or emotional injury because of the person's physical or mental impairment.

Oregon has enacted the Vulnerable Person Act. This Act allows a vulnerable person who suffers from injury, damage, or death, by reason of physical or financial abuse, to bring suit against any person who caused the abuse, or who has permitted another person to engage in the abuse.

A two-year old child suffered brain damage after an assault by his mother's live-in boyfriend. Six weeks prior to the child being injured, the child's mother took him to a hospital with bruising. A nurse at the hospital reported the injuries as suspected child abuse. The allegation of abuse was provided to two different law enforcement agencies. Neither of the two agencies fully investigated the allegations of abuse.

A lawsuit was filed against Jefferson County, alleging that its law enforcement agency was liable under the Vulnerable Person Act because in failing to investigate the nurse's allegation of abuse, the child was subjected to additional physical abuse, which resulted in a severe injury. The Oregon Supreme Court declared that a person has a private right of action against a public body, under the Oregon Torts Claim Act, when the victim alleges that an officer, employee, or agent of the public body violated the Vulnerable Person Act while acting within the scope of the person's employment or duties.

U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals

Yim v. City of Seattle

In 2017, the city of Seattle passed its Fair Chance Housing Ordinance, which prohibited landlords from inquiring

about the criminal history of current or potential tenants, and from taking adverse action, such as denying tenancy, against them based on that information. The city's purpose in passing the ordinance, at least in part, was to address its housing crisis and to help end the prison to homelessness pipeline. When the ordinance was passed, it was challenged by several landlords for violating a landlords free speech rights as outlined in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

In regard to the First Amendment, it is important to note that the government is, under certain conditions, permitted to regulate and restrict speech. However, when the government regulates or restricts speech, it must do so in what is known as a "narrowly tailored" fashion. For simplicity's sake, a narrowly tailored law is one that restricts the exact amount of speech necessary to accomplish the government's restriction.

The 9th Circuit ruled that Seattle's ordinance violated landlords' free speech rights under the First Amendment because the ordinance was not narrowly tailored. Other jurisdictions were attempting to accomplish the same goals as Seattle, but their restrictions were substantially less broad. For example, some jurisdictions passed laws that required landlords to conduct an initial screen of potential tenants without looking at their criminal history and notify those applicants if they had passed the initial screening. Only after the initial screen were landlords able to do a criminal background check; but they were also required to give those applicants a copy of the background check they received and allow them an opportunity to provide mitigating information on details in that report. Other jurisdictions only permitted a certain type of crime to be inquired, for example, felonies were acceptable, misdemeanors were not. And still some jurisdictions only allow the background check to review the last three, five or seven years of a person's life.

California Restaurant Association v. Berkeley

On April 17, 2023, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals issued a decision that will impact a city's ability to regulate the use of natural gas within its jurisdiction.

The city of Berkeley enacted a local building code that prohibits natural gas piping into newly constructed buildings, which would functionally prohibit the installation and use of natural gas appliances. Upon the adoption of this ordinance, the California Restaurant Association challenged the legality of the ordinance, arguing that the ordinance was prohibited by the U.S. Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA).

In response to the lawsuit, the city argued that EPCA only preempts regulations that impose standards on the design and manufacture of appliances, and that EPCA is not applicable to local regulations that impact the distribution and availability of energy sources, like natural gas. The California Restaurant Association in turn argued that EPCA preempts regulations that effectively ban covered products from using available energy sources.

The 9th Circuit agreed with the Restaurant Association, nothing that enacting EPCA, “Congress ensured that States and localities could not prevent consumers from using covered products in their homes, kitchens, and businesses. So EPCA preemption extends to regulations that address the products themselves and the on-site infrastructure for their use of natural gas.”

Johnson v. Grants Pass

On September 28, 2022, the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed *Blake v. Grants Pass*, a class action matter addressing public camping. The court upheld the U.S. District Court’s prior ruling that persons experiencing homelessness are entitled to take necessary minimal measures to keep themselves warm and dry while sleeping outside. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals opined that cities violate the Eighth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution if they punish a person for the mere act of sleeping outside or for sleeping in their vehicles at night when there is no other place in the city for them to go.

The LOC, in conjunction with several other similar organizations across the nation, filed an amicus brief in support of a request from the city of Grants Pass request for a rehearing in front of the full panel of judges.

On July 5, most of the court’s 29 judges voted against the request for a rehearing from the city of Grants Pass. However, the court did issue an amended opinion. The revised opinion slightly softened previous language and held that “it is an Eighth Amendment violation to criminally punish involuntarily homeless persons for sleeping in public if there are no other public areas or appropriate shelters where those individuals can sleep.”

The difference from the previous holding is that sleeping and camping ordinances were unenforceable if there were

no other public areas or appropriate **shelters** for individuals to sleep. The previous opinion limited enforcement when the number of homeless individuals exceeded the number of available shelter beds within the city.

In addition to the amended opinion, several judges filed dissenting statements and opinions in support of the city, creating a favorable record for an appeal to a higher court. The LOC has been notified that the city will appeal the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals opinion to the U.S. Supreme Court.

U.S. Supreme Court

Groff v. DeJoy

On June 29, 2023, the United States Supreme Court released its decision in *Groff v. DeJoy*, which may impact how and when cities are required to provide religious accommodations to its employees.

Mr. Groff was a rural carrier associated for the United States Postal Service who could not work on Sundays due to his religious beliefs. While Mr. Groff was not initially required to work on Sundays when he began working for the postal service, the postal service subsequently contracted with Amazon to deliver packages on Sunday, which then required Mr. Groff to work on Sundays. While the postal service attempted to make accommodations for Mr. Groff, there were times when Mr. Groff was required to work on Sundays, which eventually led him to quit his position, and file suit against the postal service for failing to accommodate his religious beliefs.

In issuing its decision in favor of Mr. Groff, the Supreme Court changed the standard employers need to utilize when identifying how and when to make religious accommodation for an employee. Historically, employers had to show that the requested accommodation would result in an undue hardship on the employer’s business if the effort or cost it had to take in making the accommodation was more than a de minimis amount. With its ruling in *Groff v. DeJoy*, the court has modified that standard. Employers must now show that the accommodation will create an undue hardship on their business by creating a burden that is substantial in the overall context of the business.

PVC vs HDPE Pipes for Municipal Systems

The new common discussion around the cities is surrounding pipes, not the kind you smoke out of, but the kind typically in the ground. Things we don't think about until they don't work, burst, or we must install new.

Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and high-density polyethylene (HDPE) are two of the most common materials used for pipes in municipal systems. Both materials have their own advantages and disadvantages, and the best choice for a particular application will depend on several factors.

PVC

PVC is a strong, rigid plastic that is resistant to corrosion and chemicals. It is also relatively inexpensive, making it a popular choice for water mains and sewer lines. However, PVC is not as flexible as HDPE, so it can be more difficult to install in tight spaces. Additionally, PVC can be damaged by sunlight, so it is not always suitable for outdoor applications. In addition, there is a controversy that PVC can emit chemicals into clean water systems, this could lead to making this a less optimal choice for that purpose but would not be an issue for a waste connection for example.

PVC is commonly used for pipes in a variety of applications, including:

- Water supply
- Sewerage
- Electrical conduit
- Stormwater drainage
- Irrigation
- Chemical processing

HDPE

HDPE is a flexible plastic that is more resistant to impact and fatigue than PVC. It is also more resistant to chemicals and sunlight, making it a good choice for outdoor applications. However, HDPE is more expensive than PVC, and it can be more difficult to join together.

HDPE is commonly used for pipes in a variety of applications, including:

- Water supply
- Sewerage
- Natural gas
- Oil and gas

- Underground storage tanks
- Stormwater drainage

Comparison of PVC and HDPE for Municipal Systems

The following table compares the advantages and disadvantages of PVC and HDPE for municipal systems:

Feature	PVC	HDPE
Strength	Strong	Flexible
Corrosion resistance	Good	Excellent
Chemical resistance	Good	Excellent
Sunlight resistance	Poor	Good
Cost	Inexpensive	Expensive
Ease of installation	Difficult in tight spaces	Easy
Joining method	Solvent cement	Heat fusion

Choosing the Right Pipe Material

The best pipe material for your application will depend on a number of factors, including strength, flexibility, corrosion resistance, chemical resistance, UV resistance, and cost requirements.

If you need a strong and rigid pipe that is resistant to corrosion and chemicals, PVC is a good choice. However, if you need a flexible pipe that is more resistant to damage from chemicals and UV radiation, HDPE is a better option.

Ultimately, the best way to choose the right pipe material is to consult with a qualified engineer or contractor.

Conclusion

PVC and HDPE are both excellent materials for pipes. The best choice for your application will depend on your specific requirements. By understanding the key properties of each material, you can make an informed decision about which one is right for your city along with your staff and experts.



With presenting sponsors:



Toward Our Shared Future

Age-Friendly Oregon Summit 2023

The best way to predict the future is to create it!

Join Age-Friendly champions from around Oregon to shape our shared future. Explore new ideas, promising practices, and policies critical to helping to make our state and communities great places for people of all ages and abilities to live, work and play. Connect with neighbors, advocates, and thought leaders who are driving community change.

Summit sessions include:

- Key Issues for an Age-Friendly Oregon
- Creating a Multi-Sector Plan for an Age-Friendly State
- Role of Philanthropy in Building Inclusive & Equitable Communities for All Ages
- Workshops on Housing, Health & Behavioral Health, Economy, Civic & Social Participation

Registration is free, but space is limited. Meals and snacks provided.
Scholarships available to support attendees from rural, BIPOC, and LGBTQIA+ communities and those traveling from a distance.

AGE-FRIENDLY SUMMIT

**Tuesday, October 10
9am-5pm**

**COMMUNITY DAY
Tuesday, October 11**

(An optional day of learning organized by our local host committee.)

**Western Oregon University
Werner University Center
400 Monmouth Ave N
Monmouth, OR 97361**

Learn more: aarp.org/ORSummit23

Register:
events.aarp.org/ORSummit23

Collaborating Partners:



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Trivia Question Answer:

Dolly Parton. Dolly was so touched by the crowd's kindness after her performance she went straight to the bus and wrote the song titled Eugene, Oregon.