



NEWSLETTER

STRENGTH IN UNITY

Second Quarter 2018

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome Spring!

This is an especially busy time for mayors across the state – budget season, preparation for construction projects (big and small), getting the parks and trails

ready for increased use, patching the pot-holes of winter weather and of course, residents who look to us to improve livability across the community.

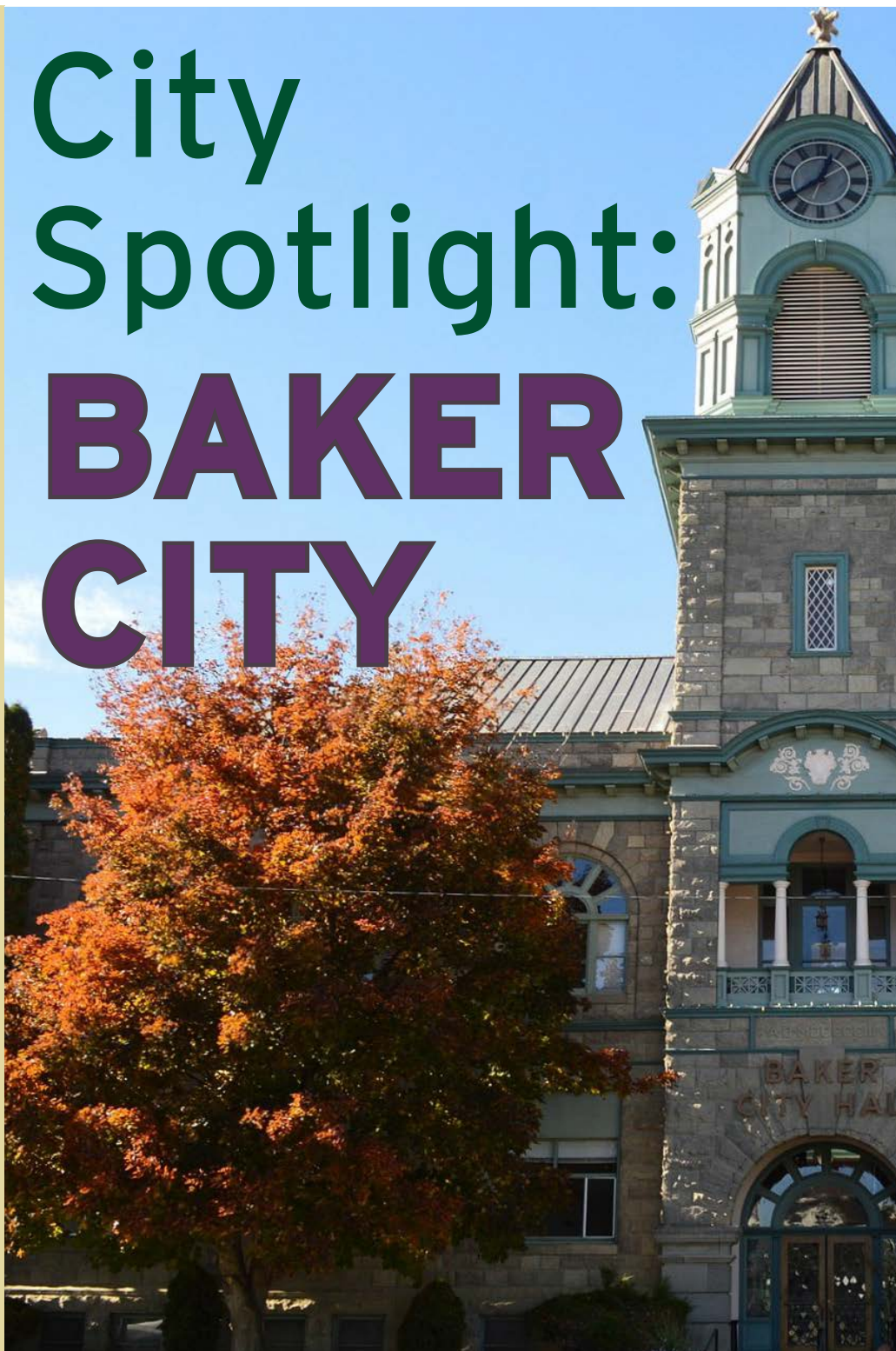
While national news paints a picture of cities in chaos, I would guess that every mayor has a different story – one that shows determination to get things done! *Strength in Unity* is not just our motto, it defines the amazing amount of energy, collaboration and support that Oregon's

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City Spotlight: **BAKER CITY**



CITY SPOTLIGHT:

BAKER CITY

Submitted by Mayor Mike Downing

Baker City is located in scenic Northeast Oregon, at the intersection of three Oregon Scenic Byways and nestled between the Wallowa and Elkhorn Mountains. The city has a population of approximately 9,900 people and is located on I-84, 300 miles east of Portland. Our vibrant downtown boasts more than 100 buildings on the National Register of Historic Places and is home to quaint restaurants, galleries and independent retail shops.

The city has just completed an updated wastewater management plan. Our existing wastewater treatment facility was constructed in the 1960s and is long past its estimated lifespan. The new plan calls for the addition of a 100-acre storage facility plus land application of the treated effluent.

The city will be partnering with local ranchers to pump the water onto agricultural ground. The cost of the project is approximately \$10 million and the city council has been adjusting wastewater rates to pay for the project.

Baker City gets the bulk of its water from the Elkhorn Mountains. The city has embarked on a 20-year plan to upgrade the water delivery system. We are in the process of replacing approximately a mile of piping each year and the rate structure is in place to complete this project within the next 15 years.

The city also has an outstanding park system and a great trail system that bisects the city. We added a large park in the last five years and are continuing to enhance the amenities. This past year we have added terracing to the parks amphitheater, constructed a labyrinth, added public art fixtures and improved lighting. This was accomplished with the use of grant funding, private donations and volunteer labor.



Recently a citizen approached the city about setting up a beautification committee. The city worked with this individual to facilitate a meeting. From that initial meeting, a citizen committee has spontaneously formed with over 20 people attending on a regular basis. They have divided



the city into zones and are vigorously working to clean the major arteries into the city. The feedback from this committee has people all over the city cleaning up their properties. It is amazing what one champion for a cause can do to enhance livability within our community.

Baker City has an amazing historic district. Baker City has historically been a Performing Main Street Organization within the Oregon Main Street Program. Over time we lost our momentum and dropped out of the program. This past year a new downtown organization has been formed and we are once again a part of the Main Street Program focusing on façade upgrades, event planning and promotions.

Baker City is home to many events each year. The Hells Canyon Motorcycle Rally, the Baker City Cycling Classic, the quirky Salt Lick Auction, the Miners Jubilee Festival, the Eastern Oregon Tributefest (rock and roll)



and the We Like 'Em Short Film Festival are but a few of the extraordinary happenings within the city.

We are looking forward to the summer months when the visitors come to our city to enjoy the sunshine, natural beauty and hospitality that only Eastern Oregon can provide.

2018 OMA Summer Conference July 26-28 at the Florence Event Center

Florence to Welcome Mayors for OMA Summer Conference!

The 2018 OMA Summer Conference will be held in Florence at the Florence Events Center and Driftwood Shores Resort July 26-28. Things kick off on Thursday with the annual golf tournament at 11:00 a.m. followed by a city tour of Florence's integrated capital improvements. Back by popular demand is an orientation for first-time attendees.

The welcome reception on Thursday evening offers a chance to socialize with other conference attendees. It's also the OMA Silent Auction fundraiser. Bring a gift basket that represents your community to the reception and join the bidding fun. One hundred percent of the proceeds from the auction go towards conference scholarships.

Friday and Saturday are filled with educational sessions featuring topics like transient lodging tax, municipal waste, urban forestry, local government finance, and an opportunity to engage with state agency directors. In addition, there will be a tour focused on Florence's efforts to improve livability and quality of life in their community.

For more information visit the OMA website at www.oregonmayors.org.



OMA Board Seeks 2019 Applicants

The Oregon Mayors Association is accepting applications from active OMA members for its 2019 Board of Directors. The OMA Nominating Committee will prepare a slate of officers including the president, president-elect, and six directors to the OMA Board for review and consent prior to the association's Annual Membership Meeting September 27, during the League of Oregon Cities Annual Conference in Eugene.

Mayors interested in serving on the OMA Board of Directors for a three-year term beginning January 2019 are encouraged to submit an application, available at www.oregonmayors.org. Applications are due no later than **August 3, 2018**. Any questions may be directed to Megan George at mgeorge@orcities.org or (503) 588-6550.

President's Message

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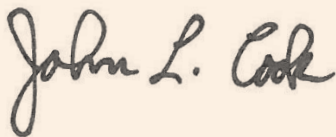
mayors share while striving to make our cities the best that they can be.

Serving the community as mayor is a role unlike any other—nobody tells you that you're always on the job—and maybe that's what sets us apart from national politicians. We are part of the day-to-day fabric of our community. Neighbors see you out and about and that means answering questions in the grocery store, at your children's and grandchildren's sporting events, standing in line at the local coffee shop or mowing your lawn on a Saturday morning! There's no better place to connect with peers and gain skills in your mayoral role than at the Oregon Mayors Association Annual Conference. This year we're gathering at the Florence Events Center in Florence, Oregon from **July 26-28**. I hope you'll be there because we've lined up some great speakers and valuable information to share and it's a wonderful opportunity to relax and socialize with fellow mayors from cities of all sizes and experiences.

When I write this quarterly message, I'm struck by (and in awe of) the number of things we balance, juggle and accomplish in a year. Then I remember an old quote from Lyndon B. Johnson, "When the burdens of the presidency seem unusually heavy, I always remind myself it could be worse. I could be a mayor."

I, for one, am proud to be a mayor and I value the friendships and knowledge I've gained as an OMA member. I hope to see you at our Summer Conference for more opportunities to learn, share and collaborate with leaders that make our state the best in the nation.

Best Regards,



John L. Cook
OMA President
Mayor, Tigard



SAVE THE DATE

OMA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING & FALL WORKSHOP

September 27, 2018
Hilton Eugene

The OMA Annual Membership Meeting and Fall Workshop will take place at the Eugene Hilton on Thursday, September 27. The Membership Meeting begins at 8:30 a.m. and is followed by the Fall Workshop from 9:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Registration for the Fall Workshop opens in early July. As more information becomes available it will be posted on the OMA website at www.oregonmayors.org.

Don't Forget to Renew Your Membership

Established in 1972, the Oregon Mayors Association is a voluntary association of persons who hold the office of mayor. Benefits of membership include reduced summer conference and fall workshop registration fees, the annual membership directory, and access to the active network of mayors across the state. The strength of our association is centered on the participation of our members. To date, 180 mayors from across the state are registered members. This represents approximately 75% of all mayors in Oregon.

Haven't renewed your membership yet? Visit www.oregonmayors.org or contact Megan George at mgeorge@orcities.org to do so.

OMA Recipient of the Prineville Data Center Local Community Action Grant

The Facebook Prineville Data Center awarded grants to 20 organizations to support short-term, high-impact projects that address critical community needs. The Oregon Mayors Association was a recipient of \$2,500 which will be used to support the “If I Were Mayor” contest which includes elementary, middle, and high school students.

Thank you to Dundee, Eagle Point, Elgin, Estacada, Florence, Forest Grove, Happy Valley, Hillsboro, Mosier, Newberg, North Plains, North Powder, Portland, Redmond, Silverton, St. Helens, Sweet Home, Tigard and Westfir for submitting entries to the statewide competition. Winners of the statewide competition will be announced at the OMA Summer Conference.

Look for information on the 2018-2019 school year competition on the OMA website in July and in the next issue of this newsletter!



League Resource – Grants Program

Cities face increasing demands for services and are often reliant

on grants and other outside funding to supplement existing revenue sources. The League has begun working on a tool that can help cities identify and apply for grant funding more easily. Available on www.orcities.org, there is a curated list of grant opportunities grouped by the type of project. In addition, the League’s very own John Schmidt can provide technical assistance to cities as they work through the grant process.

For more information, please contact John Schmidt at jschmidt@orcities.org.

Sustainable City Year Program Helps Cities Reach Goals

Cities in Oregon must address quality of life issues such as affordable housing, social service provision, community engagement, economic and equitable development, and resource conservation with limited staff and financial resources. The University of Oregon’s Sustainable City Year Program (SCYP) works with an Oregon community each year to help advance work plans around these issues. The scale of engagement—leveraging 20-60,000 hours and between 10-30 courses over a single year—expedites innovation into local government, creates political space for creative problem solving, increases capacity to move projects forward, accelerates new policy and practice adoption, re-charges and empowers staff, helps address problems from diverse perspectives, and trains the future workforce in multi-disciplinary problem solving.

Working within the existing administrative structures of both the city/county and university, SCYP helps move community’s existing challenging, vexing and exciting project goals forward while 10-20 faculty and 200-500 students bring energy, enthusiasm, and innovative approaches to difficult problems. Partners support the effort through staff time and a fee, and the selection process is competitive. Past SCYP partners include Redmond, Salem, Springfield, Gresham, La Pine, TriMet, Albany and Medford. For more information, contact Megan Banks SCYP Manager, 541.346/6395, mbanks@uoregon.edu, or visit our website: <https://sci.uoregon.edu/sustainable-city-year-program>

Keep Up-to-Date with the OMA Website

www.oregonmayors.org



- Conference Info
- OMA Newsletter
- Board of Directors
- Upcoming Events
- Student Contest Information
- And more!

Calendar of Events

July 26, 2018

OMA Board of Directors Meeting
Florence Events Center, Florence

July 26 – 28, 2018

OMA Summer Conference
Florence Events Center, Florence

September 26, 2018

OMA Board of Directors Meeting
Hilton, Eugene

September 27, 2018

OMA Business Meeting & Fall Workshop
Hilton, Eugene



Look Out for OMA Listserv

The Oregon Mayors Association Board of Directors voted to establish a listserv at their January 19, 2018 meeting. The intent is to provide a means for support and information sharing between OMA members outside of in-person gatherings. In the next few weeks, an email will be sent out to all members of the OMA which will include instructions on how to post and a code of conduct for the listserv. All will be added to the listserv initially, but you may unsubscribe at any point.

If you have any questions about the listserv, please contact Megan George at mgeorge@orcities.org or (503) 588-6550.



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