



# NEWSLETTER

STRENGTH IN UNITY

Third Quarter 2019

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



To the casual observer, Oregon is a large state. Oregon mayors are certain of this, typically fond of traveling to many of our unique and interesting cities, including early August when

60 or so of us gathered in Medford for our annual OMA Summer Conference.

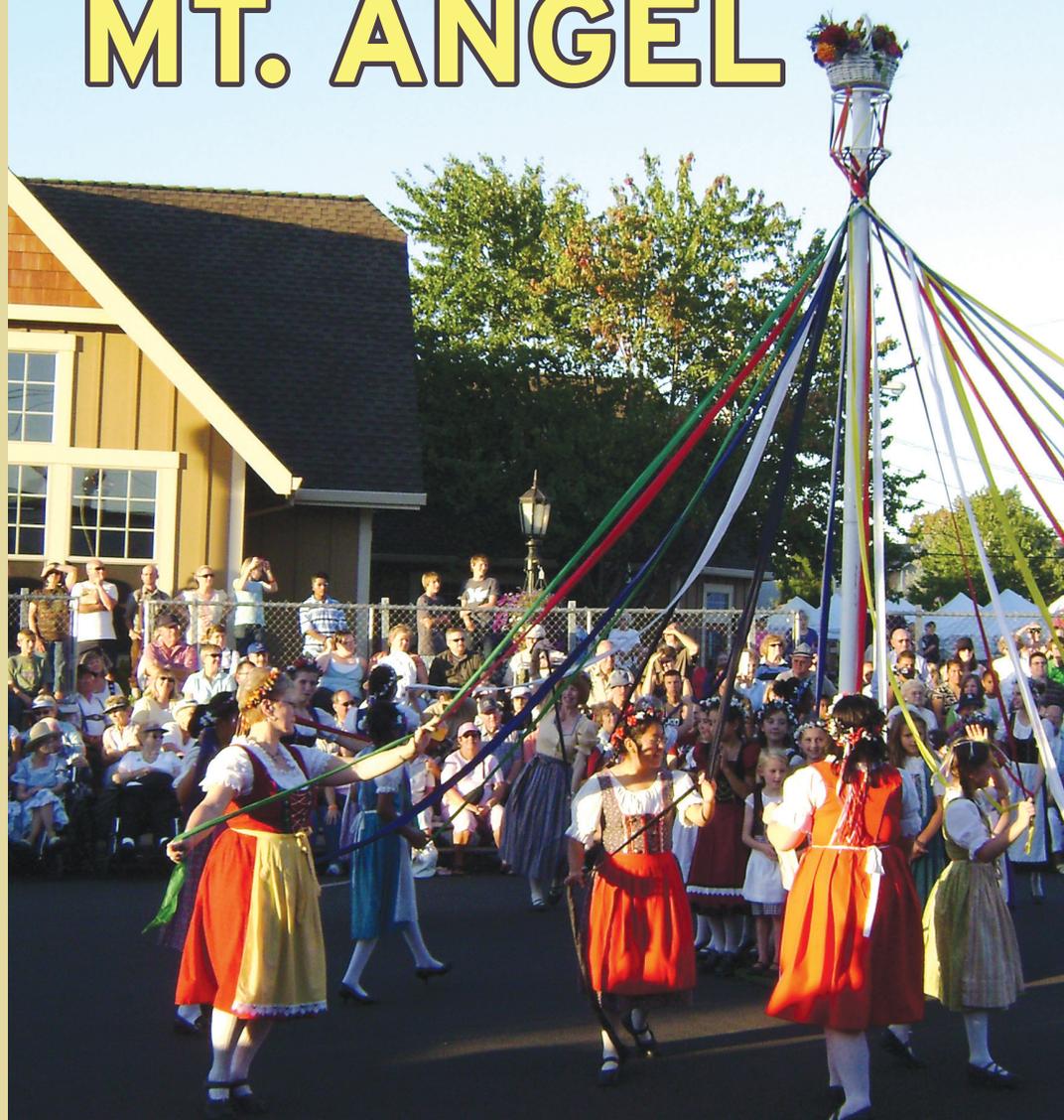
And a great conference it was due to the extraordinary support from our host city of Medford, Travel Medford ("Heart of the Rogue"), the Inn at the Commons, our many sponsors and the OMA/League of Oregon Cities staff. The prime reason for being there – networking – was first rate, the lively breakout sessions were

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# City Spotlight: MT. ANGEL



## CITY SPOTLIGHT: MT. ANGEL

Submitted by Andrew Otte, Former Mayor, Mt. Angel

The City of Mt. Angel incorporated in 1893, the city encompasses 1.14 square miles and is nestled in the heart of Marion County, Oregon surrounded by rich farmland. Mt. Angel is only 18 miles northeast of Salem, the state capital.

The city provides a wide range of services including police protection, construction and maintenance of streets, parks, and utility infrastructure, recreational activities and cultural events, short and long range planning and development review, and building permits. Certain services, such as fire service are provided by or in cooperation with regional organizations.

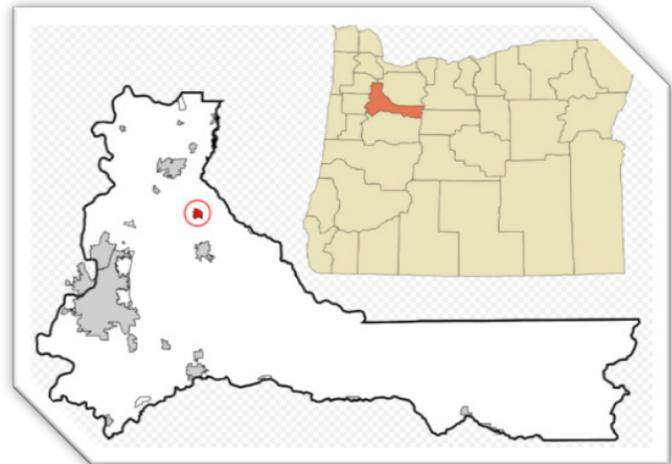
The city owns its water utility and relies upon wells for water supply. Mt. Angel owns and operates its own sanitary sewer system. Electricity, telephone service, and trash disposal are provided by private businesses.

Mt. Angel is served by the three-school Mt. Angel School District.

Planning for future land uses, civic services, and infrastructure improvements is ongoing. Mt. Angel is in the Mid-Willamette Valley area, the economy of is based in agriculture, but is beginning to diversify.

Mt. Angel is perhaps best known as the host to Oktoberfest, a celebration of its German heritage. The Mt. Angel Oktoberfest is the largest of its kind in the Pacific Northwest. Attendance grew from 39,000 in its first year, 1966, to 375,000 by the late 1980s and continues to grow today. The Oktoberfest features beer and wine gardens, sports tournaments and races, arts and crafts exhibits, community dinners featuring sausage and sauerkraut, and a wide assortment of food, games, and entertainment.

You would have to look a long time before you found a region with more to offer recreationally. There is great fishing, swimming, bicycling, hiking and picnicking all in our beautiful city. Close at hand, there are 6 city parks.



Moreover, Marion County hosts one of America's premier wine regions with world class vineyards and tasting rooms within minutes of the city. Four beautiful golf courses abound providing a selection to satisfy anyone's taste, novice to pro, and with our temperate climate the golf courses are open year round. The region is also host to many locations for bird watching and observing local wildlife. Marion County also boasts a rich history of supporting the beer industry by growing hops and has over 10,000 acres planted in orchards.

A 90-minute drive west is the Oregon Coast, with its green headlands, crashing surf and miles of beautiful sandy beach. On your way to the beach you will travel through the Suislaw National Forest of the Oregon coast range where you can enjoy the forests. These forests are a natural habitat for native fish and wildlife species, recreational opportunities, including camping, hiking, picnicking, off-highway vehicle riding, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, swimming, bird watching, and berry picking. You will even have the weather to enjoy it all. The Mt. Angel area

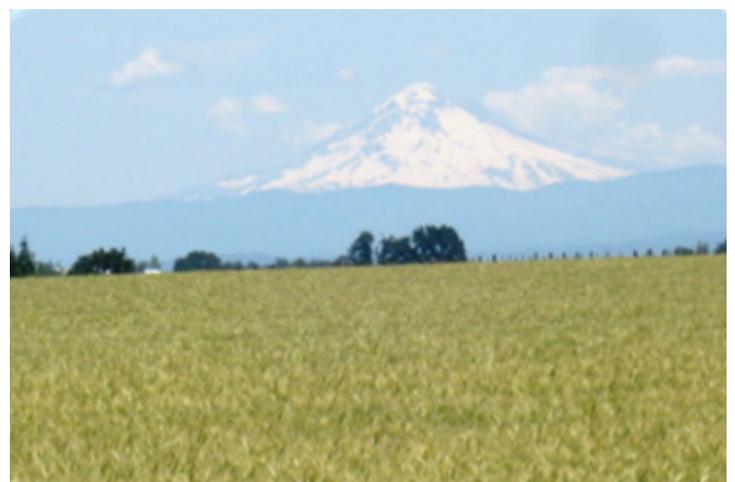


averages just 43 inches of precipitation a year and on average there are 157 sunny days per year. That is rain enough to keep things fresh and very green; but is actually less than the average rainfalls in places like Atlanta, Houston and Miami. In fact, the moderate climate makes it one of the best nursery growing areas in the United States. Our long, warm summers give way to crisp, sunny autumn afternoons. In winter, we rarely get more than a dusting of snow. In spring, the surrounding farmlands come to life again and the cycle begins anew.

Mt. Angel is governed by a City Council comprised of an elected mayor and six councilors. The City Council exercises policy-making and legislative authority and is responsible for city legislation, adopting the budget, appointing committees, and hiring the city manager. The mayor serves a two-year term. Councilors serve for four years, with two of the four councilor's terms expiring in each biennial election.

The city manager and staff are responsible for carrying out the day-to-day operations of the city.

The city's fiscal year begins July 1 and ends June 30. Current information about city services and projects can be found at the website [www.ci.mt-angel.or.us](http://www.ci.mt-angel.or.us).



# Medford Hosts OMA Summer Conference

This year's OMA Summer Conference was hosted by Mayor Gary Wheeler and the City of Medford. The agenda was jam packed over the 2.5-day conference and included sessions on the 2020 Census, economic development, home rule and a legislative update.

A big thank you goes out to the seven sponsors of this year's conference who combined contributed approximately

\$25,000 to the event, which helps to offset registration costs and allows for the conference to help defray the costs for many of the speakers who attended this year.

Mark your calendars now for the 2020 OMA Summer Conference scheduled for August 6 – 8 in North Bend.



# OMA Silent Auction a Success!

Travel Medford outdid itself in putting together this year's Taste of the Rogue Reception and 13th Annual Silent Auction as part of the OMA Summer Conference in Medford. In addition to the 24 baskets donated by cities from across Oregon, vendors from the Rogue Valley provided samples of their finest foods and drinks.



After the last auction table closed, a total of \$3,380 was raised. Thank you to the generous bidders who purchased baskets. This year, 100% of funds went to the OMA Conference Scholarship Fund. The fund helps mayors attend educational events and programs. This year, fourteen individuals received full scholarships to attend the conference.

The League of Oregon Cities Foundation provides scholarships for elected officials to attend the Oregon Mayors Association and League of Oregon Cities conferences and trainings. For more information and to donate to the LOC Foundation, please contact Megan George at (503) 588-6550 or [mgeorge@orcities.org](mailto:mgeorge@orcities.org).



# THANK YOU

2019 OMA SUMMER CONFERENCE

## CONFERENCE SPONSORS

### PLATINUM SPONSORS



### ELITE SPONSORS



### SUSTAINING SPONSOR



### STUDENT CONTEST SPONSOR



## Mayors Leadership Award Recipients Honored

The Mayors Leadership Awards were presented during the closing banquet of the OMA Summer Conference, held August 1 - 3 in Medford.

**Elgin Mayor Allan Duffy** won in the small city category. Three of the changes he brought about by his election were getting the trust and confidence back of the city staff, repairing and rebuilding civic organization support, and infrastructure rebuilding by creating the “Block by Block” project where every year at the least, Elgin replaces an entire city block of streets from the pipes up. This includes new water/sewer/storm systems, underground utilities, curbs, sidewalks, gutters, and new asphalt for the street.

**King City Mayor Ken Gibson** won in the medium city category. Some of his accomplishments include: an outreach program to the citizenry; a community process to develop a concept plan for growth in Urban Reserve Area 6D; submission of a Title II - urban growth boundary request to Metro; redevelopment of city hall; extensive safety improvements on the city streets; the development of a Youth Council Program; and development of playing fields at the King City Community Park.

**Cottage Grove Mayor Jeff Gowing** won in the large city category. He started a Mayor’s Golf Tournament to raise funds for the H2O program collecting donations to help members of the community with their water bills; created the Mayor’s Bike Ride, a free family-friendly community bicycle ride on the Row River Trail to encourage citizens to get outside, be active and experience the trail;



*OMA President Brian Dalton (center) with this year’s Mayors Leadership Award recipients (left to right): King City Mayor Ken Gibson, Scappoose Mayor Scott Burge, Cottage Grove Mayor Jeff Gowing, and Elgin Mayor Allan Duffy.*

He encouraged development of a small Cottage Cluster for veterans behind The American Legion Post, and he organized recognition for youth for excelling in sports or academics with regular recognitions from the mayor and council and he’s on a local radio station call in talk show twice a month.

**Scappoose Mayor Scott Burge** received the Award of Merit.

The mayors received their awards, were honored by their peers and the leadership of Oregon’s 242 cities. Find more of their stories and pictures on the OMA website.

## 2018-19 School Year “If I Were Mayor...” Student Contest Winners

First place winners of the “If I Were Mayor...” were presented their prizes at the OMA Summer Conference Luncheon on August 3 at the Medford Inn At the Commons.

In the Elementary School Contest (Poster Category):

- First Place: Brianna Burgess of Hubbard
- Second Place: Bailey Lee of Dundee
- Honorable Mentions: Chase Rosenberg of Happy Valley and Pearl Page-Norton of Redmond



In the Middle School Contest (Essay Category):

- First Place: Ryleigh Phillips of North Powder
- Second Place: Charlee Morehead of Elgin
- Honorable Mentions: Micah Elmers of North Plains and Delaney Streater of Redmond

In the High School Contest (Digital Media Category):

- First Place: Madielynn Larman of Elgin
- Second Place: Moziss Nesser of North Powder

Congratulations to all the students who received awards and mentions and all the mayors whose communities submitted entries. The first-place statewide winners in each of three categories won Apple iPad Air tablets.

In the Elementary School Contest, Hubbard’s North Marion Intermediate School 4th grade student Brianna Burgess’ winning poster illustrated infrastructure

revitalization, beautification, economic and resource development. Intelligent and insightful commentary from a future leader!

In the Middle School Contest, North Powder Middle School 6th grade student Ryleigh Phillips’ winning essay articulated the needs for public safety, clean drinking water, wastewater treatment and the public library. He also stated he “would try to be the best mayor that he could and would try to please most of the people.”

In the High School Contest, Elgin High School 9th grade student Madielynn Larman’s winning movie documented her appreciation of the community, it’s leaders, volunteers and civic organizations.

The 2019-20 “If I Were Mayor, I Would...” Student Contest kicked off this summer. Look to [www.oregonmayors.org](http://www.oregonmayors.org) > Student Contest for contest information.

## Engage Your Students In Your Community! Participate In The 2018-2019 “If I Were Mayor...” Student Contest

The 2019-20 “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 May. The OMA Board of Directors encourages you to speak with your local school district and youth 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 (video, PowerPoint, Prezi, etc.) detailing what they would do as mayor.

Submissions to the statewide competition are due May 8, 2020. 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](http://www.oregonmayors.org).

Judging for the statewide competition will take place in June. First-place winners will be invited to attend the awards luncheon held during the OMA Annual Conference in North Bend, August 6 - 8 where they will receive their prizes.

For more information and examples of previous entries, please visit [www.oregonmayors.org](http://www.oregonmayors.org). Questions about the contest can be directed to Debi Higgins at (503) 588-6550 or [dhiggins@orcities.org](mailto:dhiggins@orcities.org).

## Announcing RFP to Host 2021 OMA Summer Conference

The OMA Board of Directors invites you to submit your city as the location for the 2021 OMA Summer Conference. This is an exciting opportunity to showcase your community to mayors and guests from around the state.

Approximately 125 people attend this three-day annual conference including mayors, partners, guests, speakers, sponsors, state agency directors and staff. The conference typically includes a silent auction, golf tournament and educational tours. There are certain things the board of

directors look for when considering applications, which are detailed in the RFP available at [www.oregonmayors.org](http://www.oregonmayors.org).

If you have interest in submitting your city as the location, please first contact Megan George, Operations Director at the League of Oregon Cities. Megan will walk you through the RFP and will help you to talk with possible venues for the conference. Megan can be reached at (503) 588-6550 or [mgeorge@orcities.org](mailto:mgeorge@orcities.org). Applications are due by Friday, November 1.

## How Elgin Has Approached the “If I Were Mayor...” Contest

By *Allan Duffy, Mayor, Elgin*

During my first year as mayor of Elgin, I found out about the student contest. My city had not participated in the contest. I thought that it was a great idea and sought out more information from the Oregon Mayors Association – I wanted our town involved.

I first contacted the Elgin Chamber of Commerce to seek assistance. I wanted to be able to offer a prize and knew I needed to keep track of the funds. They were willing to help by keeping track of donated funds and issuing the checks for the prizes. The business community stepped forward to help fund the prizes. They were excited for students in our town to learn more about local government. They have been very generous. I am able to offer a \$100 prize for each category in the contest. I have businesses that are willing to donate more if a family needs funds to travel to the summer mayors conference if we have a first place in state winner.

I contacted the school administrator to seek their support. The school has allowed me to contact the teachers directly. The teachers were happy to have me come and share with their classes about the contest and to answer questions of the mayor and his job duties. This has even led to some classes having yearly visits to city hall to meet with the mayor and all of the city staff. Also, at the elementary school, the principal has set up an assembly with all 4th thru 6th graders with the mayor to talk about the contest.

The first year, we only had participation from the Junior High. The English teacher made the essay a class assignment. We got choose a winner from those essays. I sought help in choosing a winner from city staff and our sponsors. The student was notified and invited to the

next City Council meeting to receive her cash prize. That essay was sent in to the state contest.

In the second year, we had greater participation from the elementary school. All of the 4th and 5th graders made posters

in class. And, again, the Junior High had the essay as an assignment. The winners were invited to City Council to receive their local prize. Their entries were forwarded to the state. We had a 2nd place essay and a 1st place poster.

In the third year, we had a handful of high school student participants as well as Junior High and elementary students. Those winners also received their local prize and the entries were forwarded to the state contest. That year we had a 2nd place in the high school contest.

This past year, we had full participation again, had the same process and had a 2nd place in the essay contest and 1st in the High School contest at the state competition.

We have been able to build a relationship with our local businesses and the school district. They look forward to this contest and the knowledge and awareness that it brings to the students about local government.



# NORTH BEND BOARDWALK



## WE'LL SEE YOU THERE

2020 OMA SUMMER CONFERENCE | AUGUST 6-8 | MILL CASINO

## Keep Up-to-Date with the OMA Website

[www.oregonmayors.org](http://www.oregonmayors.org)

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



SAVE THE DATE!

## Municipal Fundamentals Training

Plan now to attend one of six half-day Municipal Fundamentals trainings. Topics include public records, ethics, public meetings and council roles.

Registration opens in October at [www.orcities.org](http://www.orcities.org).

- December 5 – Forest Grove
- December 9 – Prineville
- December 11 – Central Point
- December 12 – Coos Bay
- December 12 – Pendleton
- December 19 – Nyssa

## President's Message

*(continued from page 1)*

targeted to our concerns and, as usual, we got the thumbs up as a fun bunch of folks.

The success of our organization is worth celebrating. Foremost, we now have a record 209 members, up from 183 last year. With Portland, our members govern 99.4% of the urban population of Oregon and represent 87% of our 241 cities (the median non-member city has a population of 330). At \$24,000 we doubled the prospective \$12,000 conference sponsorship Budget and we started the year with a carryover balance of an unprecedented \$68,000, likely larger next year.

Our ever-popular Mayors Forum in Medford had many takeaways, five ideals jumping out:

1. More state help with mental health programs (a way of tackling policing challenges and homelessness)
2. Preserve the integrity of our enterprise zones
3. Ensure stable funding for education, particularly to allocate adequate dollars for career and technical education
4. Allow for a sales tax (we can dream!)
5. Continue to stress the high risk of, and preparation for, the Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake – it's our reality, not a fad.

A couple of noteworthy items came up at our recent OMA Board meeting. First, is our desire to continue our private meetings with Governor Brown to discuss community issues expressed by our members. She is very attentive to our challenges and opportunities as we uniquely have our fingers directly on the pulse of communities in every sector of Oregon.

Second topic was the Board's interest in embracing our spouses/partners in our events and activities. The Board laid the policy groundwork to permanently promote

family involvement and interest in this obsession of ours, making it easy and relatively inexpensive for all to participate. For example, we lowered the spouse/partner rate to a low \$50 for the Medford Conference which gave us a significant boost in family registration over prior years. Look for more actions supporting family involvement in our future events.

Good news is our soon-to-hit-the-streets OMA Listser – mayor networking on steroids. Also, check out our refreshed, usually up-to-date OMA Website at: [www.oregonmayors.org](http://www.oregonmayors.org).

In our windshield is the OMA Fall Workshop which occurs in conjunction with the LOC Conference in Bend in late September. The OMA slice of it begins Wednesday, September 26 with a Board meeting and then next day (Thursday) the OMA Annual Membership Meeting, breakout sessions and OMA Open Forum. Altogether, another splendid networking opportunity.

Thanks to all who have applied for our OMA Board membership. Fair warning, we have more applicants for these highly desirable positions than we have slots, but we also have some greatly sought-after OMA Committee assignments to dole out now that we have your names on file.

See many of you in Bend soon. Let the fun begin!



Brian Dalton  
OMA President  
Mayor, Dallas



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1201 COURT ST. NE, #200  
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