



# NEWSLETTER

STRENGTH IN UNITY

First Quarter 2019

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**W**e live in interesting times, possibly a good thing.

It looks like a year of considerable growth for the Oregon Mayors Association. Based on decisions bubbling up from

our various gatherings over the past few months, here's what we're in for.

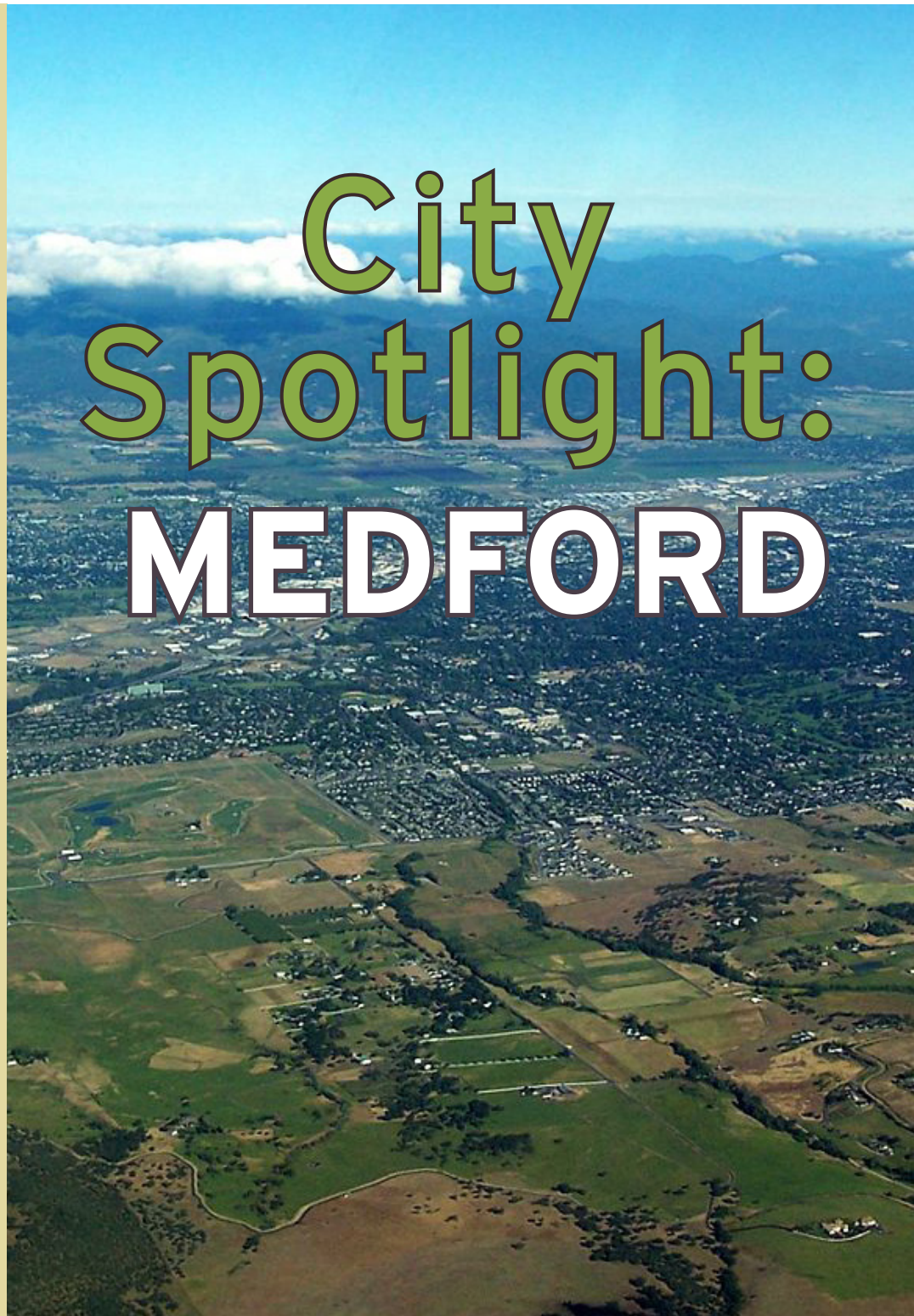
Importantly, there is an expanding vigor in our body – a new empowerment and a sense of purpose as mayors, unique, singular chief pilots in each of our communities.

We are gifted this year to have a fresh, powerful voice at the League table in Mike Cully and his team. They listen intently to us, they care about our ideas,

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O R E G O N   M A Y O R S   A S S O C I A T I O N

## CITY SPOTLIGHT:

# MEDFORD

Submitted by City of Medford

**M**edford is one of the most beautiful and livable areas of the Pacific Northwest. Located in Southern Oregon, Medford is just 20 miles north of the California border, and is surrounded by the majestic Cascade and

Siskiyou Mountain ranges. Medford offers breathtaking scenery in every direction, a growing economic base, a moderate climate, and a superior quality of life. An amendment to the city's urban growth boundary was recently approved and has added 1,658 acres for residential and employment development.

### The City

Incorporated in 1885, the city of Medford utilizes the mayor/council form of government. Medford is divided into four wards, with two council members per ward. The mayor is elected at large by the community for a four-year term. Council members also serve four-year terms, with one council position in each ward being up for election every two years.

Medford is a full-service city with 11 operating departments including city manager/mayor and council, Medford Urban Renewal Agency, Finance, City Attorney, Human Resources/Risk Management, Police, Fire, Parks, Recreation and Facilities, Public Works, Planning, and Building Safety. A Water Commission, while separate from the city, purchases from and coordinates with various Medford services.



### The Community

Located in Jackson County the city of Medford has a population of 79,590 and serves as the county seat. Medford is the demographic and economic hub of the southern Oregon region. With the continued growth in healthcare, retail and manufacturing along with retirees discovering this great region, the city anticipates a continued growth rate of 1.8% per year and is currently the 4th largest metro area in Oregon. Medford is known throughout the country and the world for its pear orchards, and is home to Harry & David, one of the world's largest shippers of fruit and food gifts.

The region offers endless outdoor recreation opportunities including beautiful city, state and country parks, championship golf courses, hiking, cycling, fishing, birdwatching, skiing, and other snow sports, whitewater rafting and other activities on the world famous Rogue River, which is only minutes away. Crater Lake, known as the deepest lake in North America, is just an hour and a half drive from Medford, and Oregon's only national park. Medford is also conveniently located just two hours from the Oregon Coast, and 30 minutes from the Mt. Ashland ski area.





Medford's economy is driven primarily by the healthcare industry. The area boasts several major and community medical centers and physician groups, with the Asante Health System and Providence Medford Medical Center being the largest healthcare employers, employing over 2,000 people.

## Current Initiatives Include:

**Housing Programs** – The Medford City Council approved the Construction Excise Tax (CET) in February 2018. The program will support the development of affordable housing and emphasize flexibility by inviting developers to request economic incentives and support that will most efficiently produce housing needs.

**Community Visioning** – What would you like Medford to be when it's all grown up? That's the question the city will be asking the community in partnership with Chamber of Medford/Jackson County, Medford School District, RCC/SOU, Jackson County, healthcare industry and non-profit organizations. This visioning process will take over a year to complete.

**Economic Development** – The city is working in coordination with Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development Inc. in the development of a regional economic strategy. This coordinated effort will identify existing resources while looking at future opportunities to further develop our strategies and would serve both Jackson and Josephine Counties.



## SAVE THE DATE

for the 2019 OMA Summer Conference  
August 1-3 at the Inn at the Commons, Medford



### Medford to Welcome Mayors for OMA Summer Conference!

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the 2019 OMA Summer Conference in Medford. In addition to an excellent education program being planned by the OMA Board of Directors, host Mayor Gary Wheeler and city staff are planning fun and informative events.

Watch the OMA website and future newsletters for more information.

## Mayors Leadership Awards

Nominations will be open soon for the Mayors Leadership Award, a program of the Oregon Mayors Association which honors OMA-member mayors who have demonstrated exceptional leadership qualities which have contributed to lasting benefits in his/her city and the community as a whole.

Special consideration will be given to mayors who have:

- Shown considerable involvement in community affairs and intergovernmental relations;
- Shown exceptional skill in helping to facilitate productive relationships between the governing body and city employees; and
- Helped other Oregon mayors reach their full potential as community leaders.

Congratulations to 2018's winners, Mayor John Cook of Tigard, Mayor Bob Andrews of Newberg and Mayor Pam VanArsdale of Rouge River! Watch your inbox and the OMA website for nomination materials in April. Nominations will be due on Friday, May 24, 2019.

Questions about Mayors Leadership Award can be directed to Megan George at [mgeorge@orcities.org](mailto:mgeorge@orcities.org) or (503) 588-6550.

## OMA Membership Renewal



It's time to renew your membership in the Oregon Mayors Association for 2019. Membership forms are available on the OMA website – [www.oregonmayors.org](http://www.oregonmayors.org).

Encourage your neighboring mayors, especially those who have been in office for a short time, to enroll if they are not already members of OMA. It's their opportunity to join over three-quarters of their fellow mayors in Oregon in making the OMA a strong voice for their city and a collaborative resource for mayors. Remember, one of the most valuable benefits of the OMA is the opportunity to meet and network with your fellow mayors. Sharing ideas, problems and issues with others can lead to solutions that work for your community.



## President's Message

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values and unique perspective. As such, they are putting more assets and attention in our basket to forward our vision and priorities.

Looking back, in the old days, we were out there, *sui generis* – unallied, singular in our communities. Our OMA, formed in 1972, created some connective tissue that has only flourished over the years.

We now have the reputation as a fun bunch whose overwhelming preference at our conferences is “networking,” a euphemism for having a great time sharing stories about our enrapturing councils, and other such benefits of our distinctive positions. Amidst all the fun, we actually do an incredible amount of business, talk of our communities, sharing ideas and experiences for moving our cities forward. All things considered, we are probably the most passionate, articulate and well-informed advocates for our communities one could hope for.

Increasingly, the League sees our passionate advocacy as an invaluable asset in their kit bag of forwarding the cause of city government and challenging the evils of preemption. Here are some specifics:

This month, our small 4-person OMA delegation met with the governor to discuss our special issues, with more OMA, city-focused meetings with her on the horizon.

As the League office works to find a quality platform, we will soon have a vastly improved website and our first-ever OMA listserv – stay tuned!

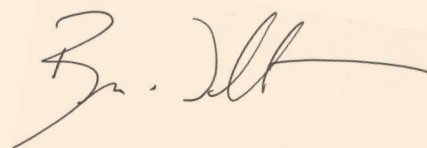
We plan to increase OMA membership from last year's near-record 183 members, up to 200+. We intend to make it a good deal for new members to join the party, so please help us where you can with that – the more of us, the merrier.

Last year we were able to fund every single one of the scholarship applications for our OMA Annual Conference in Florence, with a bright prospect for a repeat this year (\$5,000 in the kitty).

Some more good dollar news, our OMA 2019 Proposed Budget is in great shape. Our beginning cash balance is forecast at \$68,699, up from an estimated \$37,688 last year, very solid.

Finally, we have a great Summer Conference scheduled for Medford this year August 1-3 at the Inn at the Commons. Golf tournament, state agency heads to commiserate with, more networking, great food and almost like a vacation.

Ideas? Glad to hear them!



Brian Dalton  
OMA President  
Mayor, Dallas

## Calendar of Events

*(Please note several changes have been made since last newsletter publication)*

**April 29, 2019 | 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.**

OMA Board of Directors Meeting  
Conference Call

**August 1, 2019 | Time TBD**

OMA Board of Directors Meeting  
Inn at the Commons, Medford

**August 1-3, 2019**

OMA Summer Conference  
Inn at the Commons, Medford

**September 25, 2019 | 2:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

OMA Board of Directors Meeting  
Riverhouse on the Deschutes, Bend

**September 26, 2019 | 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

OMA Annual Membership Meeting & Fall Workshop  
Riverhouse on the Deschutes, Bend

# Meet Your 2019 OMA Board of Directors

## OFFICERS



**President**  
*Brian Dalton*  
*Mayor, Dallas*

Mayor Brian Dalton is a fifth generation Polk County resident, serving on the Dallas City Council since 2001 and as mayor since 2011. He obtained a master's degree in public administration, then pursued a career as a Regular Army Officer serving in many locations throughout the world. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1993. In that year, with his brother, he founded Dalton Rock, Inc., which has become a major source of aggregate material in the region. The rock company was sold in 2008 and Brian has since devoted his energies to managing his forestland and to the community of Dallas. One of his hobbies is to restore and fly 1920s vintage antique airplanes.



**President-Elect**  
*Steve Callaway*  
*Mayor, Hillsboro*

Mayor Callaway was elected to the Hillsboro City Council in November 2010, re-elected in 2014, and became mayor in 2016. His previous experience includes the city's budget committee, the Hillsboro 2020 Vision Implementation Committee and the city's planning commission. Additional community involvement includes the Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve Board, the Hillsboro Library Foundation, the Boys and Girls Club and the Hillsboro Schools Foundation. Mayor Callaway earned his undergraduate degree from Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego and a master's degree at Lewis and Clark College in Portland. He recently retired from his position as a principal at Tobias Elementary School in Hillsboro.



**Past President**  
*John Cook*  
*Former Mayor, Tigard*

Former Mayor of Tigard from 2013-2018 and has been an accountant for over 35 years. Former Mayor Cook established his own CPA and financial planning firm in 1993. He graduated from Oregon State University with a BS in Business. Former Mayor Cook is on the ODOT Region I Area Commission on Transportation. Before his tenure as Mayor, he was chair of the Washington County Budget Committee for 18 years, President of the Tigard Chamber of Commerce, the Tigard Jaycees and Tigard Little League.

## DIRECTORS



*Allan Duffy*  
*Mayor, Elgin*

Mayor Duffy has been a Elgin resident for 11 years. He started his public service with an appointment to the planning commission and then was appointed to a vacant seat on the council. Mayor Duffy ran for re-election and two years later ran for mayor and now has served two terms. He is now running for a third term as mayor and hopes to continue to serve his community. He is married and has three children.



*Christine Lundberg*  
*Mayor, Springfield*

Born and raised in Springfield, Mayor Lundberg is the city's 37th mayor, an office she has held since 2010. Prior to public office, Mayor Lundberg volunteered to help pass bond measures in the city that resulted in the construction of two new elementary schools and a new fire station. She also helped pass a measure to restore the Mill Race, a key component of Springfield's timber industry. Mayor Lundberg was first elected to the Springfield City Council in 1999 and served the Gateway area for more than a decade. During that time, the Peacehealth Hospital at Riverbend was built, and transportation improvements to Interstate 5 and Beltline were planned. In addition, the first bus rapid transit, known as EmX, became a reality, providing a route from downtown Eugene to downtown Springfield.



*Jennifer McClure Spurgeon*  
*Mayor, Weston*

Mayor McClure Spurgeon is a long-time resident of Eastern Oregon and has lived in Weston since 2006, serving the city of Weston since 2013, first as councilor and now as mayor. She is a leadership development specialist consulting internationally with individuals and organizations to improve their leadership and communication skills.



*Andrew Otte  
Mayor, Mt. Angel*

Mayor Otte grew up in Mt. Angel after his family moved there in 1973. After spending most of his adult life in San Francisco, Mayor Otte moved back to Mt. Angel with his wife and two children. He was elected to the city council in 2008, and after serving one term, was elected to his first term as mayor in 2012. In addition to being mayor, he also serves his community as a captain with the Mt. Angel Fire District and youth sports coach.



*Hank Williams  
Mayor, Central Point*

Mayor Williams has been mayor of Central Point for 16 years. An Oregon native, and son of Oregon natives, he was born in Klamath County and grew up on the family farm. He has a BS degree from Sacramento State University. Mayor Williams was a banker/lender with Production Credit Association, First Interstate Bank, Western Bank and PremierWest Bank. He resides in Central Point with his wife, a retired teacher. They raised 3 daughters. Central Point, during the past 16 years, has grown from 13,000 to over 19,000 with many

new businesses and is the safest city in Southern Oregon.



*Beth Wytoski  
Mayor, Dayton*

Mayor Wytoski has served the city of Dayton since 2008 and is a third generation member of the city council. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Oregon where she played trumpet in the marching band, campaigned for local housing standards, and worked on public safety plans and a master's degree from Pacific University. She teaches Government and Economics at Dayton High School. Mayor Wytoski is married and has three young children. She is passionate about responsible, meaningful, effective policy formation

and improving public participation in civic processes.

## “If I Were Mayor...” Student Contest

The 2018-2019 “If I Were Mayor...” student contest is underway in cities across Oregon. The contest is designed to get students thinking about community needs, public service and to come up with creative ways to solve issues in their cities. By participating in this contest, students learn about the role of the mayor and about services cities provide.

Local winning submissions are due to the OMA by **Friday, May 10**. Judges will meet in May to review submissions in the Elementary School (posters), Middle School (essay) and High School (digital media) categories. One first place and second place winner will be selected from each category.

In 2017-2018, eighteen mayors conducted their own local contests and submitted a total of thirty-four entries. Congratulations to 2018's first place winners Araya Quanesisouk of Happy Valley, Riley Latta of Redmond and John Baldwin of Silverton!

For more information on the contest and to run a contest in your local community, visit [www.oregonmayors.org](http://www.oregonmayors.org). Questions about OMA Student Contest can be directed to Debi Higgins at [dhiggins@orcities.org](mailto:dhiggins@orcities.org) or (503) 588-6550.

## Summer Conference Scholarships Available

Each year scholarships are offered for mayors of small cities to participate in the OMA Summer Conference through the OMA Scholarship Program. Mayors from a city with a population up to 5,000 can apply for the scholarship. As an added benefit, 2019 OMA membership dues will be waived for non-OMA member mayors who are granted a scholarship.

More information and an application form will be included in the conference registration mailing in mid-April, and will be posted on the OMA website at [www.oregonmayors.org](http://www.oregonmayors.org).



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