



NEWSLETTER

STRENGTH IN UNITY

Fourth Quarter 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



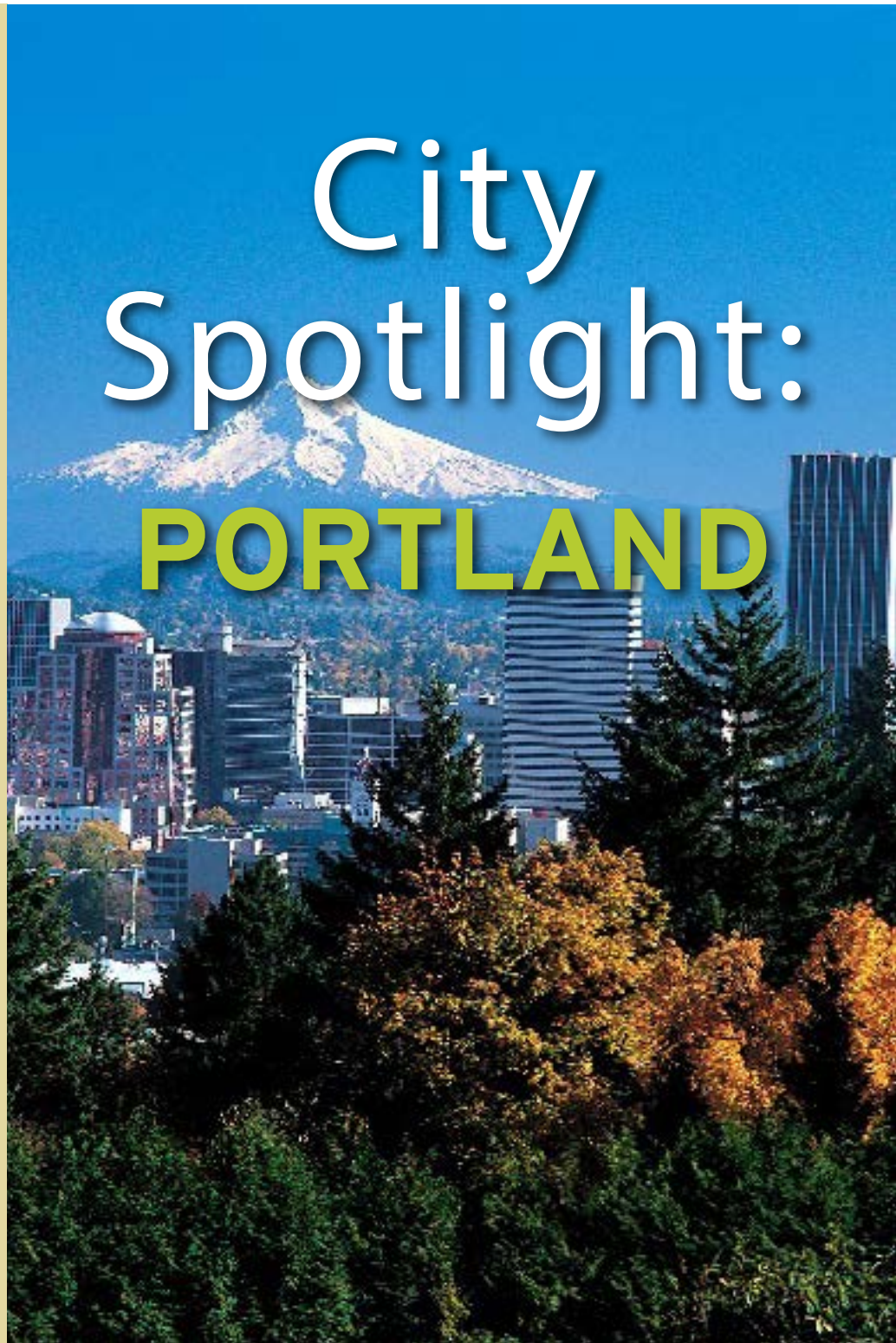
Many times as a calendar year draws to a close I will reflect back on the year and try to identify a single word that describes or sums up the year. During this year I can think of many

words to choose from: Pandemic, Unrest, Elections, Fires, Budget, Economy, Unpredictable, Zoom, Quarantine, Loss, Challenges, Resilience, Sacrifice, Division, Unprecedented, Heroes. I suppose that in the same way the events of 2020 seem to go on and on so could my list of 2020 words.

But the word that sums up this year as President of the OMA is what I have seen displayed by mayors all across this
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CITY SPOTLIGHT:

PORTLAND

Submitted by the Office of Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler

“Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood.” – Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Sprawling across the confluence of the mighty Columbia and meandering Willamette rivers, Portland is an amazing and awe-inspiring city that thrives on countless shared values which guide our community to work together so we may overcome any challenges we face.



It's a city to be cherished for its vibrance, to be celebrated for its diversity, and to be embraced for its livability.

It's a city with a proud history of upholding the right to assembly and free speech.

And it's a city to be admired for its elemental, intrinsic and stunning beauty. Beauty that's created by dramatic contrasts displayed both in nature and man-made architecture, historic and modern.

Portland is bursting with entrepreneurial spirit and a never-ending drive toward true sustainability. We continue to be a pioneer in green thinking and urban planning, and lead the way in cultivating vibrant neighborhoods.

We're also a city that—like all other cities across not only our state, but entire country—is in the middle of the most transformational period of our lifetimes. For much of this year, we have been rocked by three major challenges: a pandemic, a devastating recession and a reckoning with our racist history. For decades, Portland's progressive val-

ues led the nation in many ways. We can—and are—doing it again with the positive momentum created through the Black Lives Matter movement.

Addressing a Pandemic

For more than 9 months, the City of Portland has been working to ensure recovery from the economic and social impacts of COVID-19, prioritizing housing stability, small business support, and safe spaces for people experiencing homelessness. These actions are designed to support Portlanders through the worst of the crisis into a safe, sustainable recovery and a more-resilient future.

Much of the work is being done in collaboration with the City of Portland's Emergency Coordination Center (ECC), that has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic guided by four main goals:

1. Protect human life and public health
2. Deliver services that the community depends on
3. Develop strategic response and recovery planning
4. Make services more equitable and accessible to Black, Indigenous, people of color, immigrant and refugee communities, older adults and disability communities

Local Business Support

Very early in the pandemic, the Mayor directed Prosper Portland, our city's economic development agency, to stand up its Economic Impact Task Force, convening community partners to identify the greatest needs and the most efficient and effective responses to support local businesses through the crisis and into recovery. More than 80 Task Force partners shaped the City's response for local businesses.

Actions included dedicating \$200,000 to a retail activation strategy, redirecting \$100,000 for areas impacted by increased graffiti in partnership with City Commissioner Chloe Eudaly, and adopting a \$1 million utility support pledge that prioritized Black-owned businesses.

In total, this year Prosper Portland distributed more than \$17 million to more than 1,200 local businesses, most of which are owned by people of color.

Recently, Prosper Portland announced the distribution of more than \$11 million in small business relief grants from

the latest round of the Portland Small Business relief Fund (SBRF). More than 900 small businesses—the vast majority owned by BIPOC community members—will receive support via the Fund.



Mayor Wheeler visits with small business owners

The work of selecting among the more than 4,900 applicants was guided by the city's Equity Toolkit and the knowledge that Black people, indigenous people and all people of color have experienced the greatest impacts from the pandemic.

An additional \$3 million is being distributed as block grants to community-based organizations that serve culturally specific populations to ensure the funds reach community members most in need. The block grant process began in late October.

Heading into the holiday season, Prosper Portland launched ShopSmallPDX.com. The website promotes small businesses throughout the city and makes it easy for people to be intentional about where they spend their money this holiday season. Local retailers earn most of their revenue during November and December.

Renter and Homeowner Stability, Safe Spaces for People Experiencing Homelessness

Our Portland Housing Bureau (PHB) recently announced the continuation of its COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program. Under the program, Portlanders struggling from health or financial impacts of COVID-19 can apply for \$500 to help with food, dependent care, medicine, rent, utilities, and transportation. The latest \$2 million relief effort will place \$500 gift cards in the hands of 4,000 Portlanders. Earlier, on Friday, October 23rd, the Portland Housing Bureau (PHB) launched the program with an initial distribution of \$15 million in the form of \$500 gift cards. In total, the Household Assistance Program is expected to assist more than 31,000 Portlanders.

The Household Assistance Program is part of a \$38 mil-

lion investment in housing relief measures by the City of Portland and the Portland Housing Bureau in response to COVID-19, including \$19.5 million in for rent assistance and \$1.6 million in housing stabilization support. The majority of the funds are being distributed in collaboration with more than 30 culturally specific community organizations in an effort to better serve Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities, and those facing barriers to a public application process.

Housing relief actions through the PHB began in March, when the City and County adopted a six-month eviction moratorium for those unable to pay rent due to COVID-related economic hardship. The moratorium was recently extended to January 8, 2021. The mandatory relocation assistance program was extended until March 31, 2021. In August, in partnership with the County and Joint Office of Homeless Services, the City also committed \$35 million in state, local and federal funds for rent assistance to thousands of Portland households.

Earlier, PHB distributed \$1 million to boost people hurt by the pandemic. The bureau provided \$200,000 in assistance to households suffering a loss of income due to COVID-19 for urgent household needs like groceries, utilities, and medical expenses. It provided \$800,000 to households in need through internal referrals by social service agencies and homeless service providers. And, the City deferred rent payments for all commercial retail tenants on City property to allow small businesses to focus on getting through the crisis.

HOMELESSNESS

Since February, the City, Multnomah County, and the Joint Office of Homeless Services have partnered to help people experiencing homelessness stay safe. The City opened public restrooms and added dozens of portable restrooms and handwashing stations throughout the community. Portland Parks & Recreation provided community



Winterized pods under construction

centers for use as COVID-compliant temporary shelters.

The City also partnered with the Joint Office to open three new safe outdoor shelters during the spring of this year. In recent weeks, we've winterized the outdoor shelters by replacing tents at the three COVID-19 outdoor shelters with personal, insulated temporary structures that are well-suited for protecting occupants from cold and damp conditions.

The Joint Office is also supplying community partners and volunteers with life-saving gear to share with people in camps, including more than 110,000 masks and hundreds of gallons of sanitizer and water.

We opened nearly 300 new beds at three sites around the city to serve people experiencing homelessness through the fall and winter. These 24-hour sites offer safe, physically distant beds with resources including housing navigation services, three meals a day, showers, and laundry. Two Portland Parks & Recreation community centers serve as shelters, along with downtown's Greyhound bus station.

Police Reform and Racial Justice Reckoning

Since the death of George Floyd, the mayor's office has received thousands of emails, phone calls, meeting requests, and letters calling for accountability, and for major policy and funding changes in how we approach public safety and how we invest in the health and well-being of Black, Indigenous and people of color in Portland.

The public has given us this historic opportunity to reimagine what policing and public safety look like in Portland and all across America. That's why we committed \$12 million to Black and brown communities, and developed a list of significant reforms to local policing that we are now implementing and pursuing. We also directed all City bureaus in the Mayor's portfolio to develop strategies to better serve Black communities.

The [list of reform action we introduced](#) include financial, policy and legislative items that I will take in partnership with other elected leaders. Among the 19 items on the action list are:

- Redirect \$7 million from Police Bureau and \$5 million from other City funds to communities of color
- Call on criminal justice system partners to match the City commitment and reinvest in communities of color
- Call for a community-led review and re-envisioning of core police patrol services, convened by the Portland Committee on Community-Engaged Policing (PCCEP)
- Decline renewal of Intergovernmental Agreement with TriMet, dissolving the PPB Transit Division and putting

transit officers back on patrol

- Dissolve Gun Violence Reduction team and fundamentally reshape our approach to reduce gun violence in collaboration with the Office of Youth Violence Prevention, District Attorney-elect and other partners
- Remove police officers from schools, dissolving Youth Services Division and School Resource Officer program
- Create local legislation enshrining PCCEP in Portland City Code, making it a permanent community oversight body
- Create local racial profiling ban with private right of action for intentional discrimination by law enforcement

These actions are long overdue, and government is not doing this alone. We are doing it with everyone, with our community partners and with our Black leaders and community.

And there is still more work to do. As we look to 2021, we are filled with hope. We will continue to rise to the challenge of the pandemic, doing what is necessary to keep ourselves and each other safe. And we will be intentional with this opportunity to build back better and do right by future generations of Portlanders.



Calendar of Events

Date January 14th (Virtually)
Location Zoom

Date TBD (Typically April/May)
OMA Board of Directors Meeting
Location TBD

July 30, 2021
OMA Board of Directors Meeting
The Mill Casino, North Bend

October 19, 2021 | (Time TBD)
OMA Board of Directors Meeting
River House, Bend LOC Conf.

October 20, 2021 | (Time TBD)
OMA Annual Membership Meeting
River House, Bend LOC Conf.

2021-2023 Governor's Recommendation Budget Released

This week, Governor Kate Brown released her [recommended budget](#) for the 2021-2023 biennium. While your LOC Government Relations team is still looking at details, it's important to point out the state goes through several steps before reaching a final budget agreement in the spring of 2021 during the full legislative session. This budget effectively becomes a starting point for discussion and debate over what the state's financial priorities should look like for the next two years.

In general, this budget is still responding to the Corona-virus, estimating an additional \$700 million in pandemic response that includes testing, contact tracing and vaccine delivery. According to Governor Brown, there is no additional state funding to cover this cost; so unless the federal government steps up with additional resources, Oregon will have to adjust the overall budget to cover it.

The recommended budget also contains substantial investments in housing, providing funding for community projects lost in 2020 due to shortfalls in lottery funds, as well as funding for wildland fire fighting and a response to the late season catastrophic fires. Finally, there are plenty of concerns for local governments as well, particularly the loss of shared revenue dollars.

The following is intended to provide an initial snapshot of the budget priorities as we at the LOC understand them. A deeper dive will likely uncover a better understanding of the impacts.



Christmas and Holiday Season

The Christmas season, also called the holiday season, or the festive season, is an annually recurring period recognized in many Western and other countries that is generally considered to run from November to early January. It is defined as incorporating at least Christmas, New Year, and sometimes various other holidays and festivals. It also is associated with a period of shopping which comprises a peak season for the retail sector and a period of sales at the end of the season. Christmas window displays and Christmas tree lighting ceremonies when trees decorated with ornaments and light bulbs are illuminated are traditions in many areas.

- Observances: Gift giving, family meetings, religious services, parties, other holiday-specific traditions
- Begins: Late November
- Ends: Early January (usually after either New Year's Day or Epiphany) ~ Wikipedia

When asked the question of what the holidays are to your family and many others, one thing that was very common were the variations of traditions celebrated by all. Here are a few that stood out:

"I like to name my turkeys and gobble like them while I am prepping him.. he does a turkey dance too in the sink."

"For Christmas, I have a grinch costume/pajama that I like to wear on Christmas Eve. I do hand out one gift for each kid under 18 to open."

"Every year since I was born, my godmother has given me a Christmas ornament that represents something that happened to me during the year. For example, when I first took up tennis as a young girl, I got an ornament in the shape of a tennis racket. When I bought my first house, I bought an ornament exalting my new house purchase. And etc., etc., etc. Now that I have 11 nieces and nephews, 2 step-kids and a daughter-in-law, I do the same for them."

From OMA please have a safe holiday season.



Engage Your Students In Your Community!

Participate In The 2020-2021 “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 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 7, 2021. 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 June. First-place winners will be invited to attend the awards luncheon held during the OMA Annual Conference in North Bend, July 29 - 31 where they will receive their prizes.

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



OREGON FUN FACTS – Did You Know?

Oregon State Flag is unique and the only flag in the United States to have different designs on each side.

Trivia Question: What is the lowest ever recorded temperature in Oregon? Answer on back page.

Meet Your OMA 2021 Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

Beth Wytoski, Dayton

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Jeff Gowing, Cottage Grove

PAST PRESIDENT

Steve Callaway, Hillsboro

SECRETARY-TREASURER

Mike Cully, LOC Executive

Director

DIRECTORS

Allan Duffy, Elgin

Carol McInnes, Fossil

Henry Ballensifer, Warrenton

Rod Cross, Toledo

Jim Trett, Detroit

OMA Membership Renewal

It's time to renew your membership in the Oregon Mayors Association for 2021. Membership forms are available on the OMA website – www.oregonmayors.org. There is a new online system that will hopefully streamline the process. LOC has updated the entire system and renewals and new registrations can now be done online and accept online payments, no more need for hard copy forms, however, they are still available. To access the online system [Click Here](#). There is complete instructions on how to join or renew online.

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

(continued from page 1)

magnificent state: Leadership

In response to the unpredictable events of this year you have stepped forward time and time again with compassionate, visionary, reassuring, ethical, and strong leadership.

You've led your communities with reassurance in the face of natural disasters and Covid. You've led your communities with compassion following the loss of life, possessions, businesses, and jobs. When you've provided food, financial assistance to keep utilities on or a roof over somebody's head, you've led with empathy and understanding. You've provided visionary leadership when confronting issues of brutality, political divisions, and unrest. As leaders I've heard and seen you advocate aggressively for your communities and make difficult decisions with courage and integrity.

While there have been discouraging moments amid these challenging times your leadership has provided inspiration to me and to all Oregonians. I am proud to

serve alongside you and am grateful for your service.

As my term comes to a close I would be remiss if I didn't give thanks. Thank you to the OMA Board of Directors for their time and guidance to our Association. Thank you to Past President Brian Dalton for setting a good example and handing me a strong organization. Thanks to our incoming President Beth Wytoski for her counsel and ear. Thanks to Mike Cully for his friendship and keeping OMA a priority and strong partner within LOC. Thanks to the Mayors who served on the Nomination and "If I Were Mayor" committees and especially the Conference Planning Committee which planned two great virtual conferences. Lastly thanks Kelly Richardson and the entire OMA/LOC staff for their work and support this year. At times as it felt like we were building a plane while we were in the air. But together we've had a successful flight and made a safe landing. Thank you all!

Steve Callaway, Mayor of Hillsboro
President of OMA



2021 Session - Advocacy Critical

By Jim McCauley, LOC Legislative Director

You hear the pitch every session from the LOC government relations team that we “rely on your advocacy to help stop bad stuff, and move legislation and policy that make sense.” Given the pandemic

shell that we have been living under since March, the impact on the economy, late season catastrophic fire losses and the collective strain on your communities, 2021 will be a critical session for cities.

In all likelihood, access to the Capitol will be limited to legislators and their staff. Lobbyists and the general public will not be part of the daily grind of the session until the COVID-19 vaccination distribution is well underway. Perhaps the best-case scenario will be a modified version of access in April/May, but we can’t assume this.

Your contact with legislators has hopefully been a constant throughout the year. If not, then it’s time to reconnect, and establish the relationship with your state House and Senate members. We have more than 20 new state legislators as a result of elections, members retiring early, or running for another office. That’s a large group of new elected officials that don’t have the benefit of your local knowledge, or even the value of expertise you gained in the “Elected Essentials” training offered by the LOC.

The message here is simple: Make an effort to meet your state legislators. It’s likely going to be through a virtual meeting, but on some level, virtual calls provide some flexibility if you’re trying to fit travel time into the meeting space. Bottom line, the LOC needs your advocacy at the local level to provide the base education to legislators about how local governments operate, what’s important to you as a local government leader, and what the LOC is focused on for the session. A number of cities have gone to weekly or monthly calls with their state legislators to maintain contact, and I find this option is a great way to stay in touch. So, if you haven’t already done so, consider

this a viable option and team up with the other cities who share the legislator’s district boundary.

The LOC’s government relations team started its legislative briefings last week, and we hope to make our way through the full slate of new legislators. We will also have briefings scheduled with Governor Brown, House and Senate leadership, the Ways and Means Committee Tri-Chairs, and a range of key committee chairs and members committees. Please do your part - get a meeting scheduled, and if you need help, reach out to me or any members of the [government relations team](#). Certainly, use [LOC’s priority issues](#) as a starting point for the conversation and feel free to share your own city’s needs as part of the conversation.

Contact: Jim McCauley, Legislative Director - jmccauley@orcities.org

LOC Podcast Explores "Urban-Rural" Divide



Tune in to a new season of the City Focus podcast for a discussion with Hermiston Mayor Dave Drotzmann and retiring Portland City Commissioner Amanda Fritz on reducing the divide between urban and rural communities and learning to work together for common goals.



WE'LL SEE YOU THERE

2021 OMA SUMMER CONFERENCE July 29-31 @ MILL
CASINO

Save the Date: 2022 OMA Summer Conference

Due to the pandemic of 2020, it was necessary for the board to cancel the in-person conference in 2020 which allowed 2021 to be held at the Mill casino in July 29-31. Which then allowed 2022 to be picked up and held in Newport at the Best Western Plus in August.



The Hope of 2021

by Beth Wytoski, Mayor, Dayton

2020 has been a rough and wild ride. It started with wildfires in Australia and the threat of military conflict with Iran. It brought marches for racial justice, a pandemic, and the most divisive election cycle in memory. But

through difficult trials, we all may grow. To quote Helen Keller, “although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it.”

That overcoming is a large part of leadership and those in local positions have risen to the occasion. Through programs to help residents stay in their homes, pay their utility bills, and keep their young children safe during the day, local leaders have helped many through these tough times. Mayors and City Managers have been creative with economic development and supported local businesses with various promotions, grants, and reimbursements and our downtowns have taken note. Rural fire districts, like Aurora and Dayton, donated trucks, equipment, and meals to the Santiam canyon district so those heroes could continue to serve their communities. If adversity builds character, strength, and resilience, 2020 and its impact will be long felt throughout Oregon and the United States.

And that brings me hope for 2021. Through the devastating losses of jobs and homes, I hope we will build more resilient communities, in infrastructure and social safety nets. Through the heartbreaking losses of family members and

friends, I hope we can identify actionable changes to our healthcare system to prevent some of these losses in the future. I hope that the celebration for teachers able to switch to remote instruction IN TWO DAYS lasts and that we remember how flexible, creative, and understanding our educators were during a moment of crisis and how they did everything possible to make things work for our children. I hope that our small businesses are able to recover and I hope our residents flood them with support. I hope we leave the big box stores and online ordering in 2020 and rush to our downtowns and home businesses for holiday gifts in 2021. I hope my firefighter cousins in Phoenix and Medford are able to join us for family camping trips rather than being on conflagration crews and desperately trying to save homes. I hope their neighbors are comfortable in newly constructed homes and are no longer concerned about insurance claims and smoke damage.

More than anything, I hope we value our connections we have taken for granted before the threats of 2020. I know my family will have more neighborhood BBQs, family campouts, visits with grandparents, and friendsgiving potlucks. I know our campfires will feel a little more comforting and our s’mores taste a little sweeter, whether at our backyard fire pit or at one of our favorite parks. I will be so excited to see my colleagues and counterparts of Oregon at in-person conferences - one of my greatest hopes. I so miss our networking, our camaraderie, our collaboration, and exchange of ideas. And I hope I get to hear about all of the incredible projects and policies you have been able to implement that have led your community through this difficult time. Remember the true test of leadership is how well you function in a crisis and ya’ll - we have passed!

Have You Visited OMA’s New Website?

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

Visit the website at www.oregonmayors.org.





Listserv Rules and Code of Conduct

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

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

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

COURTESIES & COMMON SENSE (aka “THE RULES”)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Registration Now Open for City Day at the Capitol

City officials are invited to attend City Day at the Capitol virtually on January 28, the major local government event of the legislative session. This event is the opportunity to stand with other city officials from around Oregon in support of the LOC's advocacy efforts. It is also the time to let legislators know how actions they take could impact local communities.

Highlights of City Day at the Capitol will include presentations from League staff on legislative priorities, briefings from the legislative leadership about their objectives for the session, and a legislative reception for legislators and city officials.

A preliminary agenda of the day's events along with information on registering for the event can be found on the [LOC website at www.orcities.org](http://www.orcities.org). Registrations for City Day at the Capitol are due by January 22.



STRENGTH IN UNITY

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Salem, Oregon 97301

Trivia Answer (page 6):

–54 °F at Seneca on February 10, 1933

