

## MAYOR'S REPORT DECEMBER 2015

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year. 2015 has been a banner year and 2016 looks to be even better. In January 2015, the City Council set an 18 month set of Goals. It appears, however, that many of those goals have been completed and therefore, the council will revise its goal statement early next year.

Let's review where the City is on some of those stated goals. Street maintenance was the number one goal. The budget was restructured to ensure roads would be primary. The City settled its long standing dispute with the county by entering into a joint chip and crack seal project on City roads and roads that had been annexed. By year end, close to 20 miles of road had been repaired and disputed roads turned over to the City. All this was accomplished without any new road taxes.

Dog River pipeline, which is 115 years old and loses 1 million gallons a day during peak flows, has been a top priority for many years, without resolution. The Forest Service permit report will now be completed in the spring, field surveys are underway with plans made to protect and relocate the popular mountain bike "Ridge Trail." A new, large water pipeline is going forward on West Second Street to serve industrial customers and the Lone Pine Well is being upgraded ahead of schedule to ensure water for periods of drought.

The Waste Water Master Plan improvements completed phase 1A with design build cost savings, the annual water hike of 10% was cancelled this year. Waste water rates will be reviewed in the spring for both citizens and commercial customers, especially restaurants. There is a continuing interest in bringing down both waste water and water rates.

About 120,000 trees were planted in the burned area of the watershed with most money coming from grants. Grass seeding and more tree planting will occur in the spring of 2016.

Thompson street paving was finally approved. Underground facilities will be updated first and paving will occur in 2016.

Two new breweries will come on line in 2016 and a new bottle and brew, Mile 30, opened in November, all with the help of the City's economic development specialist, Gary Raines and Main Street. There are plans for developing apartments in downtown and a new request for proposal was sent out for the Granada Theatre, the Recreation building and the old Moody building (the blue building behind the Granada), to be received in January 2016. The town is looking forward to the opening of a new Thai

Market in the old Optimist Printing location, across from Rivertap Pub and rehabilitation of the Craig Building and the Elks Club are underway.

Financing and installation of a Bike Hub will occur in 2016 and the Sacajawea statute is about to be installed both at the Lewis and Clark Festival area.

There are many more goals being tackled by the City. You can review them on the City's revamped and updated website, which was also one of our goals. Most important, a new City Manager will be hired in early 2016 and I want to welcome Frank Perea, the new publisher of the Chronicle, who has come to us from Lincoln City.

Change is here. There are other things to tackle but tourism and boat tours are up, business development is up, the downtown is being renewed and more citizens are engaged in the future of The Dalles. There is plenty to do. If you want to get involved in this growing success, contact the City, the Chamber, or Main Street.