

## Mayor's Report for May/June 2015

When a person from the Deep South wants someone to meet their parents, a new date or just someone important, they say; "You better slick up!" I like that. That's exactly what The Dalles has started to do. We have started to slick up the town with new businesses, activities by Main Street and the Chamber, renovations of store fronts using a new Urban Renewal grant program and most importantly, repair of our roads. There is more to do but this is a good start.

As announced earlier this month, two new breweries will be coming on line within the next year. The National Neon Sign Museum in the old Elks Club building is starting its renovations. The Parks and Rec pool has just had its ribbon cutting and is now available for swim meets and recreational swimming. Our economic development team is working with several more possible new businesses and many downtown building owners to see what can and should be done to fill empty store fronts and renovate upstairs areas into office or living spaces.

The City has consolidated its economic development efforts into one position; a Project Coordinator. This person will be responsible for such projects as the River Front Trail, the Lewis and Clark Park and new Sacajawea statue, the Enterprise Zones, Urban Renewal projects and all ongoing efforts to enhance and build business opportunities in The Dalles. A site is currently being considered for incubator opportunities for new and startup businesses. The City is also looking for a site appropriate for a downtown, east side food market.

The City Budget was approved by City Council with an emphasis on repairing roads, taking over roads in annexed areas, stopping annexations and taking more responsibility for constructing utilities so as not to discourage residential development. The City Council will also examine tough issues such as whether to keep Municipal Court, our relationship with the Library, reducing water and/or sewer rates, protecting our water supply at Dog River Reservoir, housing for all levels of income, especially for workers and several downtown projects which have been pending for a very long time.

There is considerable attention being given The Dalles because of the Historic Highway completion in 2016, an increase in the number of tour boats docking here, growing bicycle activity, the success of our Main Street program and our attempt to encourage tourists. In early October, Main Street will welcome its state convention to The Dalles. To all the citizens, business owners, industry and associations; "Let's slick up." The future is upon us.