

## MAYOR'S REPORT OCTOBER, 2014

I have seen the future in The Dalles and it is fantastic. Last Saturday, the 4th of October, 2014, a fund raiser for our Main Street program was held at the soon to be renovated IOOF Building. Its facade will be restored to its original grandeur by a grant from Urban Renewal.

So what about this event was so good? It wasn't just good, it was great because, although the room was filled with citizens of all ages, the majority and the strong driving force was a younger generation of business owners committed to restoring the downtown area; to making sure it grows, to ensure it gets a new face and to create a community gathering place.

The night was advertised to be about chocolate and whiskey. In truth, it was a positive reaffirmation that our communities future leaders were prepared to step up and help The Dalles grow. There were so many, I am reluctant to single out any one. It was the combined force of the group that was so powerful. It was their positive attitude and their commitment to the future that was inspiring. The sense of community pride was so strong, it was almost palpable.

I have said The Dalles is at a tipping point. All the small things that have happened in the past are coming together but it will take new leaders to push and tip us into the future. When I attended the Oregon Mayor's Conference in Pendleton and the League of Cities convention in Eugene this last month, there were many stories of successful communities. Each story stressed that there was always one important quality; to be successful, a community must have a cohesive, committed group of community leaders. I saw them at the Main Street fund raiser.