

## Mayor's report/ January & February, 2016

Congratulations to our new City Manager, Julie Krueger. Julie is a long time employee of The Dalles as City Clerk. It will be very important to have such an experienced and knowledgeable City Manager as we replace three important staff positions.

Jay Waterbury, Chief of Police will retire July 1, the Director of Planning, Dick Gassman and the Director of Finance, Kate Mast have indicated they will be retiring within the next two years. The City will also hire a Human Resources Director in 2016.

Currently, the Council is considering new proposals for developing the Granada block and the area where Tony's store has been. The remodeling of the Craig Building is moving forward and new tenants should be in soon.

Our newest craft brew outlet, the Liberty Tap Room has opened on Second Street across from the old Griffith Motors location. With Freebridge Brewery and Route 30 now open, only one more to go: Sedition Brewery behind JD Smith Jewelry. We look forward to a summer with six craft brew locations and maybe a few brew tours for tour boat passengers. This year we expect up to 18,000 passengers between March and October.

Spring is the time for putting together our goals and budget for fiscal year 2016-17. Thompson Street is getting its new facelift, Google has started excavation on its third buildout and the Transportation Center behind Home Depot is almost complete.

We will be celebrating the 100 year anniversary of the Gorge Historic Highway as Oregon gets closer to its reopening as a world class bike and hiking route. The Dalles will incorporate that celebration into all local activities as we look for funding to install our new bike hub at the Lewis and Clark Festival Park. We are also in the final stages for receiving the completed Sacajawea statute and fountain to be installed in the park.

The Council's major goal this year will be to acquire funding to replace the 110 year old Dog River pipeline which provides approximately 70% of The Dalles water but leaks one million gallons a day during peak flows. Our water and snow pack accumulations looks to be in great shape for the summer and one of our back up wells will be upgraded soon.

The city is currently in the midst of upgrading its transportation plan, evaluating housing needs and evaluating water and sewer rates. Once these steps have been completed, we hope to look at our Comprehensive Plan, our urban renewal structure and reach out to the school district regarding their needs. It will be very important for all tax districts and

governmental entities to work together to fashion a thriving economic community, with good schools, school buildings and a higher level of livability for all citizens.