

## MAYOR'S REPORT DECEMBER, 2018

I want to wish everyone happy holidays and a prosperous New year. This is my last Mayor's report before I hand over the gavel to our new Mayor, Rich Mays on January 14, 2019. I want to thank the citizens of The Dalles for allowing me to be your Mayor since 2013. It has been a great honor.

I also want to thank all the city employees who have done so much over the last 6 years to improve The Dalles. A special thanks to Izetta Grossman our City Clerk and Julie Krueger, our City Manager. An elected official could not ask for better partners than these two. Their professionalism, knowledge, dedication to The Dalles, expertise and willingness to do the work is exemplary.

2019 will be an exciting year. The Dog River Pipeline's permit process is in the final comment stage and design and construction is on the horizon. The expanded and updated Waste Water Facility will be completed and dedicated in 2019.

Plans for public input about the Vision and Comprehensive Plan, implementation of the housing study and transportation issues are moving forward. In order to encourage more housing, a revised city code will be presented to the city council for approval. These revisions include allowances for smaller lots and smaller houses where appropriate. Since The Dalles needs approximately 1300 new houses by 2015 and currently it is not allowed to expand its urban growth boundary, this increase must come from more density within the city limits. If you are interested, there will be public comment on the new ordinances prior to adoption.

The City and County are working together to assist the college in developing a skill center for technical trades. The hope is to make Columbia Gorge Community College a destination college and to develop a partnership with School District 21 for upper level classes at the college for high school students. We are also working together to keep the building permit office in The Dalles.

Our bus system will be planning for limited fixed routes along with dial a ride service. Tour boat business continues to increase with huge benefits to the Discovery Center, Ft. Dalles Museum and the Neon Sign Museum. Several apartment developments down town are either in the planning stage or under construction.

Economic Development will be a key issue for 2019. It will take all of us to work together to achieve a balanced economy which will endure.

Good luck to the new Mayor and council. I have full confidence they will be successful in moving The Dalles forward.