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In the Loop

To: CEDC Board of Directors, CEDC Members and Interested Parties
From: Ted Sprague, CEDC President
Date: 12/17/09

ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR JANUARY 14TH 2010

Please join CEDC for its annual meeting Thursday, January 14th at the Cowlitz County Expo Center. Registration will begin at 11:30 with lunch program starting around noon until 1:15pm. I am very pleased to announce our Keynote Speaker will be Arun Raha, Ph.D. and Chief Economist for the State of Washington and Executive Director of the Economic and Revenue Forecast Council. Dr. Raha is responsible for the preparation and presentation of quarterly forecasts of Washington's economy and General Fund revenues. He also advises state legislative committees and other government agencies regarding economic and revenue activity in the state.

In addition to our Keynote we will vote to approve the 2010 budget and new nominations to the Board of Directors. After over a decade of service to the Executive Committee, **Steve Vincent**, CEO of Columbia Analytical Services, will step off the Executive Committee while still serving on the Board. The Board is nominating **Bianca Lemmons**, Vice President and Manager of Cowlitz County Title to the Executive Committee and position of 2nd Vice-Chair. Completing his two years as Chair, **Bob Gregory**, City Manager of Longview will become Past Chair and **Mike Karnofski** of Weyerhaeuser is nominated to be the Chair for two years. **Brian Skeahan**, General Manager of the Cowlitz PUD is nominated to move from 2nd Vice-Chair to 1st Vice-Chair.

Our organization is fortunate to continually have a number of community leaders from the public and private sector who are willing to give of their time and talents to serve on the CEDC Board of Directors. This year we are recommending five new members to the Board and they are:



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- Denise Ferner** - - US Bank
- Suzanne Cusick** - - Longview Schools Superintendent
- Dick Riley** - - Gibbs and Olson Engineers
- Joel Lengyel** - - Woodland Chamber of Commerce
- Lisa Nisenfeld** - - SW Washington Workforce Development Council

My thanks go to **Peter Isaacson**, of L.G. Isaacson who served over six years on the Board and has decided not to serve an additional three year term. I can always count on Peter for strong opinions and excellent common sense (and of course we can always curse or praise WSU athletics).

The Annual Meeting is our major annual gathering so we appreciate strong attendance and sponsorships. The cost is \$30 per person or \$225 for a table of eight. Please RSVP to our office at 360.423.9921 or online https://www.cowlitzedc.com/event_registration.jsp

ECONOMIC SUMMIT A SUCCESS

Thank you to the Kelso Longview Chamber of Commerce and CEDC members that attended our 4th Annual Economic Summit. We went with a different format this year and it was a rousing success. Those in the audience were pleased by the optimistic remarks of our Keynote Speaker, Michael J. Parks and his facilitation of our panel of experts. Our informed and knowledgeable panel, made up of Renee Sinclair (US Chamber of Commerce), Suzanne Cusick (Longview Schools Superintendent), Sy Johnson (PeaceHealth) and Jerry Flaskerud (Coldwell Banker, Flaskerud Realty) shared their unique insights and views of the coming economic year and their challenges and opportunities. One of the best parts of the evening was the opportunity for members to ask their questions of the speakers. Thanks to all involved.



Photos courtesy of Mr. C's Photography.

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MINT FARM GROUNDBREAKING - - JANUARY 5, 2010 - - 10:30AM

I cannot think of many better ways to start off the economic year than with a groundbreaking celebration of an infrastructure project that will bring new jobs to our area. Please join **Senator Patty Murray**, the City Council of Longview and fellow CEDC members for a groundbreaking celebrating the South Weber Avenue Extension. The \$1.4 million award will be used to extend South Weber Avenue and build water infrastructure to open sites in the Mint Farm. In the near term the project will benefit a proposed bio fuel facility and in the long term the project will open the Mint Farm to several industrial clients. The grant came through the Economic Development Administration as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. ***Please join us in this celebration and RSVP to the City of Longview at 360.442.5004***

PORT OF LONGVIEW NAMED “PORT OF THE YEAR”

The Washington Public Ports Association (WPPA) presented its 2009 President’s Port of the Year Award to the Port of Longview at its recent Board of Trustees Meeting. Each year, WPPA honors a WPPA member port for leadership and innovation in economic development efforts. The Association’s Executive Committee chooses the winning port from a pool of nominees.

The Port of Longview was honored for recruiting EGT (Export Grain Terminal), the first facility of this kind built in the United States in more than 25 years. The state of the art facility is expected to generate more than 200 construction jobs and 50 permanent jobs in the Longview community. The region can also expect to see 35 more jobs associated with the increased cargo. ***(Photos below are of the birth of the facility with crews working 24/7).***





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In addition to recruiting the export facility, the Port reached record revenues in 2008 and contributed to the construction of the Castle Rock Boat Launch, the only engineered approach on a 23 mile stretch of the popular Cowlitz River. “It’s an honor to be named Port of the Year,” said Port of Longview Executive Director Ken O’Hollaren. “This award is a true reflection of the staff’s dedication and the community’s support of the Port of Longview.” Congratulations to the Commissioners, staff and all associated with the Port. The CEDC is proud to be in partnership with all of you.

SOMETIMES THE BEST OFFENSE IS A GOOD DEFENSE...

With the impending legislative session coming in January, it is very important that we all stay informed on the issues. This is a reminder that the Kelso/Longview Chamber of Commerce holds a weekly phone conference with our legislators every Monday during the session at 7am at the Monticello Hotel. Our delegation does an excellent job either attending in person or by phone and it is an easy way to keep in contact with the pulse of the session.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER - - BIGGS INSURANCE SERVICES

Biggs Insurance Services recently located to new office space in Longview and we are pleased to have them as a new member. Based in Vancouver, Washington, Biggs is an insurance agency with over 70 years of service in the Northwest and beyond. Beginning in 1935 they have now grown to be one of the largest locally owned independent agencies in southwest Washington providing quality protection for thousands of businesses, individuals and families. They offer a wide range of services and are very proud of their customer service backed by their strength of resources. Please welcome Biggs Insurance Services to the CEDC.

WEYERHAEUSER LONGVIEW MILL RECOGNIZED

On December 8th, Weyerhaeuser’s Cellulose Fiber mill hosted members from the company’s Senior Management team which included the CEO and a select group from the Board of Directors. The rare visit to the mill was to recognize the mill’s significant improvement over the past year.

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In addition, the visit by company leaders was to acknowledge the mill's efforts around safety. For the first time in many years, the mill is poised to achieve a less than one employee injury rate. So significant the improvement, Weyerhaeuser's Board of Directors recently passed a resolution of appreciation for the accomplishments and expressed appreciation for the team's efforts.

"This noteworthy recognition and honor is the result of contributions by all employees," said Tim Haynes, the Liquid Packaging mill manager.

After the award ceremony, the Board and Senior Management had an opportunity to meet with employees and tour the mill. This is a proud accomplishment for all who work in the mill and their families. Congrats to you all!

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2010

I think we can all agree 2009 was a very difficult year for the majority of Cowlitz County residents. We were not alone in these tough economic times as Americans and citizens worldwide felt the effects of the recession. It is widely acknowledged that the recession is over, but that does not mean we will not feel the pain of unemployment and stagnation for some time to come. We came out of the latest recession very strong which is why we did not see unemployment rates soar into the 18% range like we saw in the 1980's. I believe we will come out of this recession in similar fashion. **What other county can boast a \$200 million capital investment during one of the worst recessions in modern times!?!**

The groundwork of partnerships, leadership, infrastructure and workforce is here in Cowlitz County and I see a bright future coming our way. Have a safe and happy holiday season and I look forward to seeing you January 14th if not before!

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