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In the Loop

To: CEDC Board of Directors, CEDC Members and Interested Parties
From: Ted Sprague, CEDC President
Date: 1/24/12

CEDC Annual Meeting

January 26, 2012

11:30am Registration

Noon – 1:15pm Lunch/Program

Cowlitz Regional Conference Center

Featuring Keynote presentation by nationally respected
retail/industrial analytics company - - Buxton

Cost - - \$35.00 for an individual or \$250.00 for a table of 8

Three easy ways to register - - by calling 360.423.9921, email Kim

Nelson - - nelson@cowlitzedc.com or online

http://www.cowlitzedc.com/event_registration.jsp

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TENTATIVE DEAL BETWEEN EGT AND ILWU

On January 23rd the Governor's office announced a tentative agreement between EGT and the ILWU. This is excellent news not only for the groups involved but also for the future development of Cowlitz County. While tensions appeared to have died down recently to the public, the air was still thick with tension due to the anticipation of a grain ship and what that might bring.

I am hopeful this agreement will eventually clear the tension out and bring about peace. The recruitment of EGT to our area, to build the first new, state of the art grain facility in over two decades, was never celebrated as it should have been. Let's not forget all of the positives of having EGT in our community. The Port of Longview last November lowered its tax levy by 45% before the first ship even arrived. This grain terminal will continue to pay dividends for families and tax payers for a long time to come.

Thank you to Governor Gregoire for her leadership and hard work to get a deal done between the parties.

TIPS STRATEGIES CONTINUE TO BE IMPLEMENTED

As you will learn from Buxton on at the Annual Meeting on Thursday, the TIPs strategies continue to be worked. The overall goal of TIPs was to increase the depth and breadth of the CEDC. One new tool is the signing of the agreement between CEDC and Buxton. The services Buxton will provide can be used in almost unlimited ways from marketing your business, to hiring new employees, to healthcare solutions for our community and on and on.

In another move to fulfill the goals of TIP, the CEDC recently named Longview business owner Alice Dietz as Director of Programs. Alice and her husband Doug are the current owners of "The Brits" a restaurant located in historic downtown Longview. She comes to the CEDC through an innovative partnership with the U.S Forest Service. This full time position will revolve around building a bridge between the Cowlitz County business community and the services and opportunities offered by the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and Mount St. Helens monument.

Alice brings a strong background of innovation in running her small business and has established connections throughout Cowlitz County that will allow her to bring benefits



January 24, 2012

to our new partnership. Alice has a degree in Community Development from Evergreen State College and attended Kelso High School. She began her work at the CEDC on January 17th.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING LONGVIEW'S COMMERCIAL ZONING CODE UPDATE, BY STEVE LANGDON

On Wednesday, February 1, 2012, the City of Longview Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on updating the commercial portions of the City's zoning code. The Planning Commission meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber on the second floor of City Hall, 1525 Broadway Street. The Commercial Zoning Code Update also includes rezoning some properties currently zoned for residential use to a commercial zoning designation. Zoning codes do affect how your property can develop.

In 2007, the City of Longview adopted an updated Comprehensive Plan. A Comprehensive Plan is an official public document that guides policy decisions related to the physical, social and economic growth of a city. It provides a framework for future growth, development, and public decision-making. The Comprehensive Plan was adopted after an extensive public outreach process.

Since the Comprehensive Plan was adopted, the City has been updating its zoning code. The residential and industrial portions of the zoning code update have been completed. The commercial portions of the zoning code update are now in the process of undergoing public review. The adoption of the commercial zoning code update and zoning map amendments are necessary to implement the Comprehensive Plan.

The draft Commercial Code Update and proposed zoning map changes are available online at www.mylongview.com. On the home page click on the button labeled Zoning Code Update.

Please call me at 442-5083 or e-mail me at steve.langdon@ci.longview.wa.us, if you have any questions or concerns you would like addressed before the hearing. Otherwise, I encourage you to attend the public hearing. If you would like to submit written comments, they should be directed to Steve Langdon, Planning Manager, P.O. Box 128, Longview, Washington 98632. Written comments must be received prior to the date and time of the public hearing if you want the Planning Commission to review them.

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Following the public hearing, the Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the City Council. The City Council is responsible for making the final decision on the update.

REGIONAL BUSINESS EXPO SET FOR MAY 17TH

Don't miss your chance to showcase your company in front of other regional businesses at this one day, business to business networking event! A vendor marketing package valued at over \$5,000 will be given away; exhibitor packages start at \$255.

The regional Afterhours Reception will follow the Expo in the evening. All attendees have a chance to win the Grand Prize Tropical Cruise for Two; the cost is \$25 per ticket in advance. Get more information by calling 360.423.8400 or visiting www.cowlitzcountybizexpo.com. Sign up today for Early Bird Discounts.

JEANNE BENNETT NAMED AS SWWDC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

When Lisa Nisenfeld announced she was leaving the Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC) to take on the challenge of President for the Columbia River Economic Development Council the Board of the WDC knew it would have its hands full to find a replacement. As a member of the hiring committee I am pleased to announce Jeanne Bennett has been hired as the Executive Director of the SWWDC.

"Jeanne brings a wealth of collaborative and creative energy to the SWWDC that will be important to our future development," stated Dale Lemmons, CEO of Interstate Wood Products and Chairman of the Board of the SWWDC. "We are thrilled to resume our working relationship with her."

"Jeanne's background in helping youth connect with the world of work will be very important as the SWWDC pursues its plans for the future," commented John Deeder, Superintendent of the Evergreen School District and SWWDC board member. "We feel very fortunate to have her."

Welcome aboard Jeanne!