



1452 Hudson Street, U.S. Bank Building, Suite 208, P.O. Box 1278 , Longview, WA 98632
Phone: (360) 423-9921 | Fax: (360) 423-1923
sprague@cowlitzedc.com

In the Loop

To: CEDC Board of Directors, CEDC Members and Interested Parties

From: Ted Sprague, CEDC President

Date: 1/26/10

CEDC ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR FEBRUARY 3RD AT THE COWLITZ COUNTY EXPO AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Please join the CEDC, colleagues and friends to hear from our special guest, Keynote Speaker Matthew Gardner, Principal of Gardner Economics. Matthew Gardner is considered by many to be one of the foremost real estate consultants in the Pacific Northwest. He will discuss the current economic climate and what he sees in the future for the economy of Southwest Washington. In addition to managing his consulting practice, Mr. Gardner is a member of the Pacific Real Estate Institute. He also chairs the board of trustees for the Washington State Center for Real Estate Research and is an advisory board member for the Runstad Center for real estate studies at the University of Washington.

He has appeared on **CNN**, **NBC** and **NPR** news services to discuss real estate issues, and is regularly cited in the *Wall Street Journal* and all local media.

Registration begins at 11:30am and the program will begin shortly after noon. The meeting will conclude at approximately 1:15pm.

Please register for the event (*and bring a friend*) by following this link - -
http://www.cowlitzedc.com/event_registration.jsp
or call Kim Nelson at the CEDC 360.423.9921

Thank you to our sponsors - - US Bank, JH Kelly and Cascade Natural Gas!

CEDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS VOTES TO SUPPORT LONGVIEW SCHOOL LEVIES

At the January 19th CEDC Board of Directors meeting the Board voted to approve support of the Longview School District Proposition 1 and Proposition 2. After review and approval by the Policy Committee and review and approval by the Executive Committee the Board took up the question of support. Several reasons were cited for the support, but the overarching theme was quality schools equal quality of place which was cited time and time again in our TIP Strategies report.

Proposition 1 replaces an expiring maintenance and operations levy and will be in place for three years. Proposition 2 replaces an expiring technology and capital projects levy and will be in place for three years. The Board thought the levies were reasonable and addressed the most pressing problems facing the district.

Ballots are due on or before February 8th and I would encourage you to make your voice heard and submit your ballot.

ECOTECH RECYCLING, LLC CAN TAKE YOUR E WASTE

EcoTech Recycling with locations in Longview and Kalama is now a certified collector of recycled products through the Department of Ecology's E-Waste Program. This no cost program allows for collection of your E-waste at two collection sites. One at Silicon & Solar Manufacturing, LLC located at 1401 Industrial Way, Longview, WA Door #500 across the street from Les Schwab and two at EcoTech Recycling, LLC located at 2601 N Hendrickson Way off I-5 & Exit 32 (located next to the former Cameron Glass Factory). Hours of collection in Longview are 7:00am-3:30pm and on the first Saturday of every month in Kalama between 8:00am and 2:00pm. The E-waste they may collect includes computers, CPU's, laptops, monitors and televisions.



PORTLAND MAKES THE LIST OF TOP 5 CITIES POISED FOR JOB GROWTH

A recent Good Morning America report was passed along to me by a colleague which highlighted 5 American cities poised for dramatic job growth in 2011. They are Portland, OR, Houston, TX, Minneapolis, MN, Washington, DC and Orlando, FL.

Each city has different factors driving job growth. For Portland it is the health of the technology sector lead by Intel. While Houston lost big during the Great Recession, it is poised for job growth in the energy sector with oil prices skyrocketing again. Minneapolis shows indications of taking on growth in small parts manufacturing and in retail. The Mall of America in Minneapolis is currently undergoing an expansion. The Washington, DC beltline is home to many business services that prefer to be in close proximity to the halls of government. While the government sector may not grow, the services that feed it are poised for another growth spurt, and many of those companies are headquartered in or near Washington. Orlando began to see an upsurge in tourism during 2010, and that improvement in Orlando's main business is expected to continue in 2011. This is bringing more people into the area for jobs.

It is interesting to note the differing sectors of the economy and their specific reasons for job growth. Knowing what is driving job growth and recognizing that these five areas are diverse not only in geography but also in the differing sectors of the economy, reiterates the importance of our new, more nuanced approach to economic development.

CEDC WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

As the old saying goes, the only constant in life is change. After the roll out of the TIP Strategies report we discussed the representation on the Board of Directors and we realized we need to continue to incorporate the best and brightest from the public and private sector. For that reason the Nominating Committee of the Board extended an invitation to Dan Ouellette to represent the Longview Downtowners. Dan recently opened ZoJo Coffee and Tasting Room in downtown Longview and when you walk into his shop you understand the definition of "quality of place." It is a great spot and the coffee is as fresh as it could be.

In other recent changes we were very pleased when Larry Clarke, President and CEO of



January 26, 2011

EGT, LLC accepted a position on the Board. The EGT project represents one of the largest capital investment projects in Cowlitz County history. In addition, Jason Reetz, CFO of Pacific Tech Construction is filling in the opening left when John Colgate moved on in his professional life. I am looking forward to incorporate Jason's strengths into working with the CEDC mission and goals.

EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HIGH TECH U

The CEDC is participating in and supporting the youth of our community through High Tech U. You are invited to an executive VIP briefing for SEMI High Tech U (HTU) on Thursday, February 24, 2011 from 10:00 am – 11:30 am at the Cowlitz PUD located at 961 12th Avenue, Longview, WA 98632.

Along with other community and industry leaders, you will receive an overview of the program and see how this unique math and science program engages and inspires young people. Approximately 40 students from Cowlitz and Wahkiakum County high schools will learn the fundamentals of electronics, semiconductor manufacturing, microchip logic, automated process control, and nanotechnology within the context of local industry. The students will also participate in mock interviews with industry professionals.

HTU targets good to average students with the potential to do well in STEM studies. The HTU hands-on model gives students opportunities to experience success, build self-confidence and meet local professionals working in math and science fields. The goal is to encourage students to pursue education and careers in math and science.

Please RSVP if you can attend by Susan Pagel at the SWWDC at 360-567-1070. If you have any questions, feel free to call Mary Brown at the CEDC at 360-423-9921.

SEMI High Tech U is sponsored by the Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC) and the Cowlitz Economic Development Council, Lower Columbia College, American Paper Converting, Columbia Analytical Services, Cowlitz County PUD and Fibre Federal Credit Union. For more information, please visit: <http://www.semi.org/SEMIFoundation>.

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