

## ***News in the Corridor***

**February 2006**

This email contains a mix of short news-bits and introductions for longer articles. Having trouble viewing this email? [Try our website.](#)

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### **Columbia Slough Levees Rate Well**

Bob Eaton and Dave Hendricks of the Multnomah County Drainage District presented “Not All Levees Are Equal” at the CCA January Breakfast Forum. While careful not to make guarantees they can’t keep, they pointed out the differences between the failed levees in New Orleans and the superior levee system protecting the Columbia Slough.

Their presentation has gotten press in The Oregonian and The Tribune. [For a copy of the Tribune article...](#)

### **Watershed Management Plan to go to City Council**

City of Portland staff has almost finished responses to comments received on the draft Watershed Management Plan. The revised plan and Resolution will be presented to City Council on March 8.

An overarching theme of the Plan is to achieve improved watershed health through watershed friendly development, installation of new stormwater infrastructure and the City repair and maintenance of existing infrastructure in new ways that will improve watershed health. The plan presents the science behind the need for these approaches and a management system to track City progress toward well-defined watershed health goals.

[For more information and a copy of the plan...](#)

### **Welcome New and Renewing Members!**

Perkins Coie LLP  
The Bookin Group  
YoCream International  
Columbia Steel  
Oregon Transfer Co.  
PacTrust

Skyport Properties  
Metro Overhead Door  
Pacific NW Federal Credit Union  
The PPI Group  
Portland Habilitation Center  
Andersen Construction Company  
CB Richard Ellis  
Portland General Electric  
Riverside Golf & Country Club  
American Industrial Uniform Services

### **University of Oregon Economic Indicators Rise**

The University of Oregon Index of Economic Indicators rose for the third straight month in December, gaining 0.8 percent to 107.5. The job market in Oregon continued to show dramatic improvement, with firms adding 7,500 new jobs in December, for a total of 56,400 new jobs for the year. "The UO Index suggests that Oregon's solid pace of economic growth is set to continue for at least the next three to six months," said Tim Duy, adjunct professor of economics, author of the UO Index and our featured speaker at the 2005 CCA Annual Meeting. To view the entire December UO Index report, go to:

<http://econforum.uoregon.edu/econindex.html>.

### **Bizjournals.com rates Portland 17<sup>th</sup> Best for Small Businesses**

Taxes, regulations, congestion...there are plenty of obstacles to successful business in Portland. Nevertheless, we ranked reasonably well in a comparison of 50 metropolitan areas with at least one million people.

Florida was home to three top-ten locations, with Miami topping the list. Seattle ranked fifth and San Francisco ranked 32<sup>nd</sup>.

The survey didn't look at how happy the small business owners were. It measured the concentration of small businesses, total number of businesses, and general economic data.

For more information and study methodology, pick up a copy of the January 20 issue of the Portland Business Journal.

### **Portland Harbor Keeps Getting Busier**

- In 2004, Gunderson produced 4887 rail cars. In 2005, the output increased 8% to 5270. Gunderson also launched 3 barges in 2005, which is the same number as 2004. The goal is 4 barge launches per year.

- Oregon Steel is well underway with its \$35 million pipe mill facility. In 2005, Oregon Steel rolled almost 800,000 tons of slab into plate or coil product.
- Advanced American Construction (builder of East Bank Esplanade and numerous other in-water projects) has nearly completed its new \$6 million, 40,000 square foot building in Northwest Portland, proximate to the St. Johns Bridge. The site has water and rail access. Once complete, the company will consolidate its Vancouver, Washington and Oregon City operations here in Portland.
- At its North Portland scrap recycling facility, Schnitzer Steel has renewed its commitment to doing business in the Columbia Corridor by ordering a new \$12 million, state-of-the-art, energy efficient scrap metal shredder and by rebuilding and upgrading its dock. (\$8.4 million)
- On December 30, the Port of Portland announced record breaking imports and exports for 2005 - break-bulk imports of steel rail, steel plates, and windmill parts through Terminals 2 and 6 will easily surpass break-bulk volumes from recent years. Grain exports at Terminal 5 were on track to finish 2005 near 2004's record-breaking 3.9 million tons. Toyota processed over 153,000 vehicles through the Columbia Corridor, breaking 2004's record of 152,000.

We're proud to point out that most of these activities are occurring in the Columbia Corridor and involve CCA members.

### **Report Card for the States**

The Corporation for Enterprise Development has just released its widely-anticipated *Development Report Card for the States* (19th edition). Only two states-Massachusetts and Minnesota---received A grades this year.

While this is an interesting snapshot of the Oregon economy relative to the whole country, do not take it too seriously. At least some of the data is clearly out of date, the methodology is not rigorous and the ranking is simplistic.

Although the state's business climate appears somewhat weak, signs of entrepreneurial energy also exist. Oregon possesses many valuable assets which, coupled with increased investment in education, R&D, and research commercialization, could propel the state forward in coming years.

#### Oregon Grades

Performance (what the economy means to a wage-earner): C

Business Vitality (what the economy means for a typical business): D

Development Capacity (how the state government's investments are positioning the economy for the future): A

[More detail on the Oregon grades....](#)

*For more information* about the report card and Oregon's performance, and for the free, searchable, downloadable data that make up this report, go to [cfed.org/go/drc](http://cfed.org/go/drc).

If you are interested in improving this report card, contact CCA to get involved.

### **To Lobby or Not to Lobby**

Sam Adams, along with Erik Sten and Dan Saltzman recently passed the City's first lobby ordinance. It will appear in CHAPTER 2.12 of the City Code and is titled, REGULATION OF LOBBYING ENTITIES.

There is nothing inherently tricky about the new regulation. It is a patchwork of tried and true requirements and provisions found about the state, from Metro to the Capitol.

Of note is that the City has tried to make the regulation less burdensome to those who are already evidencing transparency, such as neighborhood groups.<sup>1</sup> However, all others who lobby in excess of 16 hours per calendar quarter are required to register as lobbyists and then file a lobbying report with the city auditor.

Council is providing a grace period during the first two calendar quarters. To that end, the City Auditor will require lobbyist reports for the quarter beginning April 1, 2006, but will issue no fines on any violations occurring before October 1, 2006.

An additional financial report will be required of lobby entities spending more than \$1000.00 in any calendar quarter. If your entity does not anticipate spending over \$1000 per calendar quarter for the purpose of lobbying, you may file a certificate of limited expenditure with your registration.

The regulation can be found on our website. For further information please contact Mary Jo Merkel in Sam's office.

### **Slough 101 Workshop**

March 4<sup>th</sup>, 9 am to 1 pm  
Multnomah County Drainage District Office  
1880 NE Elrod Dr., 97211

Please join the City of Portland, Columbia Slough Watershed Council, Columbia Corridor Association, Audubon Society of Portland and the Multnomah County Drainage District for hands-on activities and classes that provide a variety of experiences and rich understanding of the issues in the Columbia Slough Watershed.

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<sup>1</sup> City recognized neighborhood associations and business districts, which abide by disclosure standards referenced in City Code section 3.96.020 G. should, in an effort to further increase transparency, make every effort to post meetings agendas and minutes in a centralized location easy for public access

Site tours will highlight techniques for water quality treatment at an industrial site, show you the pumps that drain the floodplain and the levees that prevent flooding of the Lower Columbia Slough watershed as well as give you hands on experience with the bugs and critters that live in and along the waterway.

More information on the [CSWC website](#). To sign up, contact Jill Wall at 503.281.1132 or [jill.wall@columbiaslough.org](mailto:jill.wall@columbiaslough.org).

### **7<sup>th</sup> Annual East County Economic Summit**

The Gresham Area Chamber of Commerce's 7th Annual East County Economic Summit is Friday, March 3rd at Persimmon Country Club. Featured speakers this year include Peggy Fowler of PGE, Tim Hibbits of Davis, Hibbits and Midghall, Regional Economist Bill Conerly and Portland Business Journal Publisher Craig Wessel.

Registration fee is \$95 for Chamber members and \$105 for non-members or members the day of the event. For registration information please call the Gresham Chamber at 503.665.1131.

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### **Upcoming Events**

February 22: The Day After a Disaster Breakfast Forum

March 10: Lunch Tour of the Columbia Wastewater Treatment Plant

March 21: Transportation Open House

April 26: Annual Real Estate Trends & Forecasts Breakfast Forum

May 24: Green Building Opportunities Breakfast Forum

**COLUMBIA CORRIDOR**  
A S S O C I A T I O N

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