



### ***CHANGES TO THE CEDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE***

Fall is the time the Nominating Committee, Chaired by John Leber, pulls together to look at changes, vacancies and expiring terms for the CEDC Board of Directors. Our officers serve two year terms and they are just about to begin their second year in office beginning in 2013 so there are no changes there, but some other changes are taking place.

Two people were chosen and approved by the Board to serve on the Executive Committee - - Corey Balkan of **Interwest Benefit Consultants**, who also serves as Chair of the Legislative Committee and Steve Taylor, the **City Manager of Kelso**. Both have extensive knowledge and experience in economic development. Corey was a longtime, outstanding employee of the CEDC and Steve's prior experience on the original Spokane Valley City Council and as City Manager of Connell will serve them well as new members of the Executive Committee. Citing an overload of work and volunteer commitments, Rob Harris of **JH Kelly** resigned from the Executive Committee, but will remain on the Board and as Chair of the Transportation Committee for Family Wage Jobs. In addition, Larry Schlecht of **Schlecht Construction**, has resigned from the Board. Larry is more passionate about economic development and job creation than most, but his move to Vancouver made attendance a burden. Larry's counsel and vision will be missed.

I am pleased to announce two new members to the Board of Directors – Geir Kalhagen from the **Port of Longview** and Rich Gushman from **Gibbs & Olson**. Geir brings his background and knowledge of more than 26 years in the maritime industry. He has contacts throughout the world through his work in senior positions with multinational corporations in both the United States and Southeast Asia. Most recently Geir was the General Manager for Tidal Transport and Trading in the Columbia River area and represented many of the clients with which the Port conducts business.

In May of this year, Rich Gushman was appointed president and CEO of Gibbs & Olson. The announcement came with an internal transfer of ownership from Dick Riley and Robert Hitt to the new leadership team of Rich, Tom Gower, Carol Ruiz, Mike Marshall, and Vicki Wiggins. Gibbs & Olson, founded in 1950, is employee-owned and provides civil engineering and land surveying services to public and private sector clients throughout western Washington and northern Oregon. Rich, Tom and Carol are all examples of local high school graduates who went off to college, earned degrees and returned to Cowlitz County to live and raise their families. They are great examples of what the CEDC strives for to improve the quality of place for all of our communities.

The Nominating period is still open and we have limited opportunities to fill spots, but if you are interested in serving or would like to nominate someone, please email me or give me a call.

### ***LUNCH WITH TED***

Really, it is for a good cause... I only promote a lunch to hear me speak on the state of the Cowlitz County economy and what is happening with the CEDC because it is a good cause. A fundraising lunch for Community Health Partners' dental projects is next **Tuesday, the 30<sup>th</sup>** at noon, in the **Olde Creekside Café**, 1323 Commerce Avenue, Longview. The registration flyer is provided on page 7 of the newsletter. Please share with co-workers and friends and encourage them to attend. The funds raised are critical to the ongoing success of the U of W (*yes, U of W*) Community Dental Clinics which serves Medicaid-eligible children and their parents.

### ***SAVE THE DATE - - CEDC AND KELSO/LONGVIEW CHAMBER ECONOMIC SUMMIT SET FOR NOVEMBER 29TH***

Our Annual Economic Summit is set for the evening of November 29<sup>th</sup> from 5pm – 8pm at the Kelso Red Lion. Join us to hear local experts discuss their specific area of expertise and how it relates to the Cowlitz County economy and beyond. Thank you to our sponsors (*so far*) - - **PeaceHealth, Millennium Bulk Terminals, Signature Transport** and **JH Kelly**. More sponsors are needed and welcome to make this an excellent event. Please contact me or Bill Marcum at the Chamber 360.423.8400 or [bmarcum@kelsolongviewchamber.org](mailto:bmarcum@kelsolongviewchamber.org) for information on how you can get your company name and materials displayed at this event.

### ***HEALTH ASSETS SURVEY – LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD***

Pathways 2020, **Cowlitz County Health Department, PeaceHealth, Family Health**