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Interested in OMB Membership?

OMB's primary goal is to provide affordable housing for all economic segments of society. As an Association committed to fair and balanced regulation of the building industry, we maintain vigilance, active engagement and rock-solid advocacy with

elected officials and local jurisdictions. At the same time, our Association also strives to enhance member businesses through education, business promotion and business networking. For more information, visit omb.org or contact Jenn Wasson at membership@omb.org.

Lewis County Government Affairs Update:

The County Manager Seat is up for Election!

The county manager will set the tone and vision for the county well into the future. The county's choice for the next county manager could have major impacts on the future of homebuilding in Lewis County.

The finalists are:

- **Ryan Barrett** has more than 19 years of public service in Lewis and King counties. He is currently employed as a Captain for South Correctional Entity, a regional correctional facility in Des Moines, Wash. Barrett, who spent more than seven years with the Lewis County Sheriff's Office working as a Corrections Deputy and Lieutenant, has a Master of Business Administration from Western Governors University in Millcreek, Utah, and a Bachelor in Business Communication from Evergreen State College in Olympia, Wash.
- **Gun-Sam Kim** began his

public service career with the U.S. Navy from 1985 to 1987. After a tour in the Navy, he became Chief IT Operations Officer with Santa Clara County, Calif. He has been the Chief Information Officer for Washington County in Hillsboro, Ore., since 2020. Kim holds a Master of Science in Engineering and Master of Mathematical Finance. He is currently studying for a doctorate in Workforce Development & Organizational Leadership from the University of Nevada in Las Vegas.

- **Todd Mielke** has 37 years of public service experience, with several years in a variety of municipal management positions. Since 2019, he has been the Chief Administrative Officer with the Spokane County Sheriff's Office. He was the Chief Executive Officer for three years with Greater Spokane

Inc., a nonprofit business development organization. Mielke earned a Master of Business Administration from the Foster School of Business at the University of Washington in Seattle.

- **Amber Smith** is Lewis County's Director of Human Resources and Risk Management. She is responsible for assisting and advising county management in various aspects of employee hiring, satisfaction and retention. She began in public service in Lewis County in 2018. Prior to her current appointment, she was a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. Smith holds a Juris Doctorate and Master of Business Administration from Willamette University in Salem, Ore.

For more information visit www.lewiscountywa.gov/offices/commissioners.

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So much fun was had at the first annual OMB Lewis County Chapter Bowling Night at Fairway Lanes!

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Prep Your Home to Save on Summer Utility Bills

Summer is a time known for vacations, beaches and higher than usual utility bills. The average U.S. residential customer's electricity bills will total \$412 between June and August this year, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Consuming less energy can help you save money on utility bills. Fortunately, there are several easy ways to reduce your energy costs during the dog days of summer.

Fix Air Leaks

Control ventilation to help control costs. When air enters and leaves your home through cracks and openings, you have an air leak. Look for possible leaks outside and inside of your home. Exterior areas where two different building materials meet, such as siding and chimneys, are havens for

air leaks. Inside your home, gaps can be found in places such as door and window frames, baseboards and attic hatches. Depending on the type of leak, you can caulk, seal or add weather-stripping to reduce air leaks in your home and potentially save money.

Seek out Energy Vampires

If you have an electronic gadget or appliance that uses electricity when plugged in but not in use, you have an "energy vampire." Electronics plugged into your wall outlets can add to your utility bill. Common household items that are plugged in and zap electricity when not in use include: hair dryers, video game consoles, cable boxes and portable fans. Unplug devices to save energy and

eliminate energy vampires.

Check Your Home Insulation

Heat flows from warmer to cooler temperature spaces. Insulation provides a protective layer between the heat radiating on your roof and the interior of your home. If your home is not properly insulated, heat can enter your home and your air conditioner will have to work harder to keep it cool. Older homes may have little to no insulation in the ceiling and in the walls. Seek out a professional to determine how much insulation to add. You can also make sure your attic door is insulated and closed tight. Attic vents should never be blocked by insulation.

Air Conditioning Tune-Up

If you want to optimize the performance of your air conditioner so it will provide comfort through the summer months, hire a professional for a tune-up. At a minimum, your



air conditioner filters should be cleaned and replaced according to the manufacturer's instructions. According to Sharon Tisler of Chehalis Sheet Metal Heating & Cooling, "The purpose of preventative maintenance is to keep your HVAC system up and running all season long with no surprise breakdowns, enabling you to begin the cooling season with reliable and efficient service while operating at maximum efficiency." Window blinds and shades are another way to help reduce the heat in your home.

Many of the suggestions

outlined here are usually do-it-yourself type jobs, but when you want to tackle a more extensive project, you'll want to call the Lewis County professionals at Olympia Master Builders (OMB). Member remodelers and suppliers can help you identify and create a maintenance plan and perform the duties to save water, energy and money. For more information and tips on how to make your home more efficient this summer, visit omb.org for our online searchable database of Lewis County Members.

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Lewis County seeks Consultant for help with comprehensive plan update

The Lewis County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) has authorized a Request for Proposal (RFP) to hire a consultant to guide the county through their comprehensive plan update process. Lewis County and all cities

in the county are required by the Washington State Growth Management Act to update their comprehensive plans. The Lewis County Comprehensive Plan identifies a vision for the future for the community, and establishes

a set of long-term goals, policies and land use patterns for growth over a 20-year period. Updates will include changes to the zoning map and development regulations. The updates must be completed by June 2025.

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