Lake Oswego Reads Earns US Conference of Mayors City Livability Award

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Lake Oswego Reads, a program of the City of Lake Oswego Public Library, received a 2012 City Livability Award for Outstanding Achievement. The award, from the Conference of Mayors City Livability Program, honors mayors and their city governments for developing programs that enhance the quality of life in urban areas.

Library Director Bill Baars states, “I am thrilled that our community and our Library have received this prestigious national recognition for the Lake Oswego Reads Program. I am continually astounded that this seed of an idea has blossomed into this incredible garden of activity.”

The winning mayors and their cities were announced at the recently held Annual Conference of Mayors in Orlando Florida. Mayor Hoffman, who accepted the award, recognizes that, “This award is a testament to the dedication and passion of city employees to improve the quality of life for our residents and the quality of the Lake Oswego community. It is a significant award and recognition of the efforts of or Library staff and the champions of Lake Oswego Reads.” Baars added, “Every participant, reader, City partner and community sponsor deserve credit for making this possible and creating an environment where a program - and community - like this can succeed. Special thanks also to the Lake Oswego Reads Steering Committee and program coordinator Cyndie Glazer.”

Established in 1979, the City Livability Awards are given annually to ten mayors and their cities - a first-place award, five Outstanding Achievement Awards and four honorable mentions. Winners in two categories (cities under 100,000 population and cities over 100,000) are selected by an independent panel of judges. For cities under 100,000 population, the top award winner was West Palm Beach (FL) and the other Outstanding Achievement winners were West Hollywood (CA), Napa (CA), Schaumburg (IL), and Sumter (SC).

Below is Lake Oswego Reads information as presented at the Annual Conference of Mayors City Livability Award Ceremony.

Outstanding Achievement – Lake Oswego, OR-Mayor Jack Hoffman-Lake Oswego Reads
Lake Oswego Reads began in 2007 and has expanded each year since. It is a month-long community reading program aimed to strengthen civic pride, foster discussion, and bring the community together through the common bond of reading the same book each year. It begins each year when a steering committee of community leaders and library staff select the featured book based on criteria such as wide appeal to readers 14 and older, ability to interest reluctant readers and avid book club members, ease of connection to interesting events, and availability in a variety of formats. 800 copies are given away to the residents of Lake Oswego in January, and throughout the month of February, events are offered daily. They include an author presentation as well as cultural, educational, and entertaining activities. Sponsored by West Coast Bank, Friends of the Library, and a variety of local sponsors, Lake Oswego Reads has received an overwhelming amount of positive feedback from all quarters and become an integral part of Lake Oswego culture.

Learn more about Lake Oswego Reads at the Lake Oswego Reads website. For more information on the City Livability Awards, sponsored by Waste Management, Inc, go to http://usmayors.org/citylivabilityawards/.

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Supporting Documents

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