

# Corps: Looking to be more sustainable

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different professional backgrounds and the time to give back," she said. "Or maybe it's because I have cookies at every meeting. You got to have cookies and coffee."

Whatever the reason, the effects of their efforts are extending past Tillamook County. It was volunteer corps members who worked with Johnson and Boone to pass a law allowing medical practitioners within 10 years of retirement, even if not currently licensed, to join Medical Reserve Corps units and be legally protected — a move that has helped encourage Medical Reserve Corps groups across the state. The team is sharing its public sanitation training and strategy with Multnomah County.

"We definitely want to take this show on the road," Kozlowski said. "There's no point in reinventing the wheel."

And the group has had an opportunity to see the fruits of its labor. When a water spout ravaged downtown Manzanita in 2016, more than 60 Community Emergency Response Team members were immedi-



Brenna Visser/The Daily Astorian

Emergency Volunteer Corps of Nehalem Bay President Linda Kozlowski is honored for her work.

ately on scene.

"I remember calling and asking what could we do, what could the state do to help?" Phelps said. But he was told it was under control.

To Phelps, what appears to make the area so successful is a mix between an engaged citizenry and leadership.

"If all my communities were as prepared as this community, why that'd be a home run," Phelps laughed. "I think most emergency management (teams) are one-person shops. No matter how good that one person is, you need connected citizens to make it work."

## Long road

There is still a long road ahead for the volunteer corps. A mass care plan has been created, but finding grants to fund all the plans and supplies detailed in it will always be an uphill battle. With most funding for emergency preparedness aimed toward municipalities, securing government dollars can be a challenge.

The corps is also looking for ways to be more sustainable. Kozlowski is working on succession planning, so that when board members — most of whom are founding

members — inevitably move on, knowledge won't be lost and a new generation can take over.

"We're trying to find a way to not be people dependent, but position dependent. Really clearly define our roles," she said.

But no matter what the next 10 years hold, Kozlowski feels confident in one definite source of progress.

"If it happened right now, in this room, you'd be better off than if you were somewhere else," she said of a disaster. "And that's what it is about."

# Manzanita woman nominated to serve on DOGAMI board

By **BRENNA VISSER**  
The Daily Astorian



Linda Kozlowski

Linda Kozlowski, a Manzanita local who leads the Emergency Volunteer Corps of Nehalem Bay, was nominated Monday to serve on the governing board for the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.

The decision by Gov. Kate Brown was announced by state Sen. Betsy Johnson at the volunteer emergency preparedness group's annual conference. If confirmed by the state Senate, Kozlowski will be the first member with an emergency preparedness background to serve on the board.

"She will be bringing a whole new dimension to DOGAMI," Johnson said. "She will help humanize the work of DOGAMI by factoring in the emergency preparedness perspective."

The governing board sets policy and oversees general operations for the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, an agency which focuses on providing earth science information to help inform land use and safety policies.

"I'm just thrilled, overwhelmed," Kozlowski said. "I think the emergency preparedness influence will be a huge asset."

# New rules: The city is 'crossing its t's and dotting its i's'

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said Mark Long, administrator of the Building Codes Division at the Department of Consumer and Business Services.

So far, the Building Codes Division has identified 14 cities and counties whose programs are up for renewal in July that may be out of compliance. More jurisdictions could be identified as division officials review their programs throughout the rest of 2018, Sunderland said.

The jurisdictions are Astoria, Dunes City, Estacada, Florence, Hood River, Josephine County, Lake County, Lakeside, Lebanon, Lincoln City, Malheur County, Phoenix, Reedsport and Veneta.

City officials in Aurora and Clatskanie have said their

jurisdictions also are out of compliance with the new rule. Their programs are not yet up for renewal.

Astoria City Manager Brett Estes said the city no longer uses third-party contractors to administer its building program. Building official Ben Small is a full-time city employee.

When Estes came to the city over a decade ago, Astoria, Warrenton and Clatsop County all had contracts with one company for building services. Astoria shifted the work to a city employee later, but contracted with the same company again to act as an interim official when the employee left.

Now, however, the state's rule change is mostly an issue of providing paperwork to the state to show Astoria is in com-

pliance. The city maintains an intergovernmental agreement with Clatsop County for electrical inspections, a document Estes will have to provide to the state as well.

He said the city is "crossing its t's and dotting its i's."

"At one point in time, it would have been more of an issue," he said.

Some of the counties and cities have relied on independent contractors to operate their building programs for up to 30 years to save the expense of hiring a building official and, in some cases, to achieve greater efficiency. During that period, the state has repeatedly approved their building programs, city officials said.

Now, the state is giving cities such as Estacada only a month to outline how they plan

to come into compliance with the new rule by January. One option that city is considering is to contract with Clackamas County, said Estacada City Manager Denise Carey.

The county has indicated it's equipped to handle the workload from Estacada, a city of about 3,000 people, Carey said.

Contracting with the county would increase the number of steps applicants would need to take to obtain a building permit because they would need approval from both the county and the city. The turnaround time for issuing permits also is longer at the county than at the city, Carey said. Processing a residential permit application takes Estacada's independent contractor, Northwest Code Professionals, three to seven

days, whereas the turnaround time at the county is three to six weeks, she said.

"It's just the convenience. Here, with the third party, everything comes in and out of this office," she said. "The service has been excellent over the years, and I hate to see us forced to give that up."

Several cities, including Estacada, have been discussing whether to challenge the state's interpretation in court.

State Sen. Arnie Roblan, D-Coos Bay, said several cities he represents are affected by the new rule, including Dunes City.

"The question is why now, and I guess it is because the question got asked," Roblan said. "It is creating a lot of controversy."

If the courts found that the

justice department's interpretation of the constitution is correct, it would require voter approval to change, he said.

Bryan Hockaday, a spokesman in Gov. Kate Brown's office, said the governor's regional solutions team is working with local communities as the consumer and business services department helps municipalities comply with the justice department's memo.

"Already, DCBS has provided a number of informational resources to municipalities and is committed to helping ensure a smooth and timely transition so building projects may move forward with little to no delay," Hockaday wrote in an email.

Katie Frankowicz of The Daily Astorian contributed to this report.

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