



CHAMBER NEWSLETTER

CHAMBER NEWS



Travis Palmer,
Executive Director

Note from the Director

Since our newsletter is already so packed with information and tight on space this month, I simply want to say "thanks" to a very special person. Thank you Suzy Kanich, for your time and volunteerism at the Chamber's Visitor Information Center. Suzy came to us almost 3 years ago as a volunteer who wanted to stay connected to the community and keep her office skills polished. In service to the Chamber she has answered phones, greeted visitors, helped with all kinds of projects and recently even helped save the life of one of our members' beloved cats. Suzy has been offered a full time job with one of our local businesses, which means her time with us is at an end. Thank you Suzy, we wish you the best of luck, and you will be missed.

Travis Palmer, Executive Director
Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce

Are You Good With People?

Do you like to meet and talk with travelers from other areas? Do you enjoy telling people about what a great place Cottage Grove is? If so, The Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce needs you!

Volunteers are needed to assist in the Visitor and Information Center at the Chamber Office in the Cottage Grove Community Center, 700 E. Gibbs. Volunteers act as the first point of contact for many who choose to visit or move to our community. Volunteers normally do a four-hour shift one day per week. Please call the Chamber office (942-2411) for more information or pick up an application at the Visitor desk at the Community Center.

Hats Off To You!

In honor of Volunteer Appreciation Week (April 18-23) we would like to take a moment to recognize and thank our board and visitor center volunteers (listed below) for their commitment to the chamber and our community. In addition to the countless hours

given by our board to serve on committees, attend meetings, organize and participate in events, etc. there were 1,807 hours recorded by our visitor center volunteers in 2014! Volunteering is a selfless activity, void of financial gain and is intended to promote goodness. It is about giving of oneself to serve others. We appreciate all you do to help support our efforts and make Cottage Grove a GREAT place to live and do business!

Forum - Building an Online Business Profile

Join us for a hands-on workshop with step by step instructions for setting up business profiles on Facebook, Google, YouTube and more. Experienced social media users will provide valuable information on strategies for optimizing these social media formats to benefit your business. This forum will be held on Thursday, April 9 from 6-9pm at Lane Community College Cottage Grove Campus, 1275 S. River Road, Cottage Grove, OR 97424.

- Direct instruction will take place from 6-8pm.

- Open lab time from 8-9pm will give you an opportunity to work on your profiles and ask questions.

This workshop is free to Cottage Grove and Creswell Chamber members. A \$20 fee will be charged to non-chamber participants, please bring payment to workshop. Please RSVP to beth@cgchamber.com.

April Business after Hours

Shampoo Dolls Salon will host Business after Hours on Thursday, April 16 from 5:30 – 7:00pm, 435 E. Main Street. Please join us to mingle with and find out more about your fellow chamber member businesses. Bring your business card to enter the door prize drawing, enjoy some delicious hors d'oeuvres, learn something new, and have some fun! Your attendance reinforces the spirit in which the Chamber provides these monthly activities. We look forward to seeing you there! Many thanks to those who support our efforts and your fellow Chamber members by attending this Chamber program.

Chamber Night at the Speedway

Cottage Grove Speedway invites all Cottage Grove and Creswell Chamber of Commerce members and their employees to a special night of action-packed racing. So join us for Chamber Night at the Speedway on April 18th and June 27th. Chamber member business owners and their employees get in for only \$5.00! Also enjoy premier seating on the party deck and enter into a drawing for a chance to throw the green flag to start one of the races!

For Chamber Night at the Speedway friends and family of Chamber Members can pick up a \$2.00 off regular priced admission coupon from the Cottage Grove Visitor Center. Race and regular entry fee information can be found at www.cottagegrovespeedway.com. Gates open at 4pm, racing starts around 6pm.

MEMBER NEWS

We encourage you to support Chamber member businesses and our local economy and "Shop Chamber Members first"!

NEW MEMBERS

Please join us and welcome these NEW chamber member businesses

Cobalt Computer Services, Inc.

Steven Church
(541) 393-2545

www.cobaltservicesinc.com

IT Consulting

Life Flight Network

Cindy McGrath
(541) 280-1224

www.lifeflight.org

Air Ambulance Services

Mudslinger Events

Mike Ripley

(541) 225-7946

www.oregontriplecrown.com

Sports Event Management

Renewing Members:

Thank you for your continuous support of our efforts through your membership and your commitment to helping make Cottage Grove a better place to live and do business. We look forward to a successful and profitable year!

Kiwanis Club of Cottage Grove, Creswell Rehabilitation Center, Coast Fork Nursing, Charter, Humane Society of Cottage Grove, Cottage Grove Community Hospital Foundation, Northwest Natural, Torero's Family Mexican Restaurant, Bochetto Day Spa, Anytime Fitness, Imagine It Framed, Cottage Grove Sentinel, Lane Community College Cottage Grove Campus.

"Shop Chamber Members first"!

2015 Visitor Center Stats	2/27 Thru 3/25	YTD
Phone calls	213	828
Walk-In Visitors	343	1012
Relocate Requests	2	9
Visitor Requests	7	17
Referrals to Chamber Members	107	324
2015 Website Stats		
Business Directory Searches	698	2050
Members Listed in Results	3324	9226
Member Page Views	1403	4876
Links to Member Website	148	556
Event Searches	1572	3404
Event Page Hits	524	1278
Hot Deal Searches	37	138
Job Searches	32	92

What do these numbers mean?

Business Directory Searches: This number reflects how the chamber website has been used to search for business in Cottage Grove.

Members Listed in Results: This number indicates exposure to chamber member businesses through the chamber website. It displays the number of times member's listings were displayed in the search results.

Member Page Views: This number indicates the number of times the chamber member information page has been viewed on the chamber website.

Links to Member Website: This number indicates the number of times a chamber member's own website link was clicked.

Event Searches: This number reflects how the chamber website has been used to search for events in Cottage Grove.

Event Page Hits: This number indicates how many times event pages have been viewed no matter by who, or how many times they view it.

Hot Deal Searches: Hot Deals are coupons created by chamber members and posted on the website. These numbers reflect how coupons are being searched for.

Job Searches: Chamber members can post job openings on the website. This number reflects how many times the website has been used to search for job posting.

Chamber Members! Give us a call if you want to learn how to maximize your presence on our website:

- Enhance your home page information with pictures and text
- Post hot deals, job openings, and events
- Add keywords to help consumers find you when they run searches
- Run reports to see statistics for your home page



2015 Chamber Board of Directors: Thank you for your hours upon hours of volunteer time, commitment, and service!

Officers

Tiffany Thackara, President
Joe Raade, President Elect
Paul Tocco, Vice President
Amanda Akers, Treasurer
Tim Wilson, Past President

Emerald Valley Resort Event Center
South Lane County Fire & Rescue
Buster's Main Street Cafe
Commonwealth Financial Network
Universal Trucking

Directors

Lorraine Eriksen
Sheri Henry
Lindsay Laycock
Jennifer Radcliffe
Linda Schmale
Candace Solesbee
John Trombly
Don Williams
Rhonda Worley

Cottage Grove Souvenirs
Banner Bank
Lane Community College Cottage Grove Campus
South Valley Athletics
Retired, Past Board President
Shampoo Dolls Salon
Fort Rock Construction
Retired, Past Board President
CJW, LLC

2015 Chamber Board of Directors, Advisors and Staff

Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce

700 E. Gibbs • Cottage Grove, OR

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Advisors

Tim Herrmann PeaceHealth Cottage Grove Community Medical Center
Richard Meyers City of Cottage Grove
Mayor Tom Munroe City of Cottage Grove
Krista Parent South Lane School District
Darby Valley Cottage Grove Community Acupuncture

Visitor Center Volunteers:

Heidi Abbott, Susan Jeppesen, Sunny Kennedy, Donna Laney, Chieko Tomasulo, Jim Vander Platt, Judd Van Gorder, Sharon Van Gorder, Sherry Wendt, Penny Westling, Nolene Wheeler.

Staff:

Travis Palmer Executive Director
Beth Martin Office Manager
Jennifer Violette Bookkeeper