



CHAMBER NEWSLETTER

CHAMBER NEWS

Note from the Director

Last month, the Chamber's Board of Directors gathered for an annual board retreat and strategic planning session. We reviewed the goals we set during last year's retreat and we looked at our successes as well as the areas where we fell short. We reviewed the Chamber's Mission Statement and how we can re-energize or re-engage our board and volunteers. We examined our strengths and weaknesses and we discussed our opportunities and challenges for the years ahead. We developed a 5 year vision which we can use to help guide our decision making process and we created plans to ensure that we don't lose sight of our mission and vision.

At the end of the retreat, I walked away feeling like this was the most productive board planning session that we've had during my time as Executive Director. I'd like to sincerely thank Diana Knous from Pacific Power for serving as our Facilitator as well as all of the board members who took the time to participate. We took a very realistic and candid look at the work of the Chamber and what we all want to accomplish in each of our various positions within the Chamber's leadership.

I'd like to invite our entire membership of businesses to look at our Mission, Vision and Goals and tell us how you think we're doing. We want to know what matters to you and what we can do to help make your business more successful. Thank you, as always for your continued support of the Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce.

Travis Palmer, Executive Director, Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce

Christmas in Cottage Grove!

Pick up a copy of the Cookies and Carols insert in this week's paper to see a list of the events happening this Saturday, December 5th for the Chamber's annual kickoff of "Christmas in Cottage Grove."

- Breakfast & Pictures with Santa 8:00 – 11:00am South Lane County Fire Station - 233 Harrison

- Jingle Bell Run -5kRun/Walk, Register on-site at the Cottage Grove High School Track at 8am

- Prospectors Holiday Bazaar 10:00am - 8:00pm, Dr. Snapp House, 360 S. River Road

- Smokey Bear's Christmas Tree Jamboree - 9am-2pm at Cottage Grove Ranger Station 78405 Cedar Park Road, U-cut tree tags will be issued for only \$5 and Smokey will be on site to greet visitors from 11:30am to 12:30pm. Music, treats, and more! 541-767-5000 for more details.

- Dorena School Holiday Bazaar 10am-

5pm at CGHS Cafetorium 1375 S. River Road

Crafts, Food, Antiques, & Garage Sale type items benefiting the Dorena Preschool Music Program and Parent Club

- Tree Lighting Ceremony 5:00pm, Trailhead Park Gazebo at 10th & Main sponsored by Pacific Power

- Pictures with Santa at City Hall 5:30 – 8:00pm, Free Candy Canes and Photos with Santa

- Christmas Block Party 5:30m - 8:00pm Presented by Cottage Grove Faith Center located in the Shampoo Dolls Salon Parking Lot (Corner of 5th & Main). Hayrides & Caroling, food, drinks, music, fun and fellowship.

- Cottage Grove Museum Stained Glass Exhibit 6:00 - 8:00pm, 147 N. H Street. The CG Museum will have their stained glass lit up and an open house from 6-8pm with guided tours of the stained glass at 6:30 and 7:30pm. Holiday music playing on a 1906 Victrola, refreshments, etc.

- Christmas Lights at the Village Green 5:00 - 9:00 pm. Christmas lights, Festive Beverages, etc.

FREE shuttle between Village Green and downtown provided by South Lane Wheels.

- Art Walk - Saturday, December 5th from 6pm to 8pm at participating businesses in the Downtown Historic District. Artists will display their work at host businesses. Refreshments include, wine sparkling cider and more!

- Cottage Theatre Performance of "The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe" 8:00pm, 700 Village Drive

- Enjoy a variety of "Merchant Specials" at participating downtown businesses

Event Schedules can be picked up at the Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center located at 700 E. Gibbs Ave.

Limited Edition Christmas Charms are now available at businesses participating in the Chamber's "Bridges and Beyond Charm Trail" program. Get them while you can! Charm Trail Maps are available at the Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center.

Christmas in Cottage Grove is brought to you by the Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce with supporting sponsorship provided by Pacific Power, Cottage Grove Speedway, South Lane County Fire & Rescue, Walmart, and the work of many local organizations and volunteers! Special thanks to this year's Tree Sponsor, Pacific Power and our Santa Sponsors, South Lane Fire and Rescue AND Walmart

Main Street Scavenger Hunt (all day)

Find items hidden at participating businesses. Have the store owner/clerk initial that you've found their treasure and submit your form to the Main Street Coordinator in the Bell Tower at All

America City Square (7th and Main Street), by 8:00 pm to be entered into the drawing. Everyone Wins Something!

"Think Local Shop Cottage Grove"

The Gift Certificate Program is a Member Benefit Highlight

As a chamber we strive to educate the community of the value of supporting our local merchants. The Gift Certificate program is one way we encourage shopping local. Purpose: 1. Promote shopping at CG Chamber Member businesses. 2. Support chamber members with dollars spent in Cottage Grove.

This program makes gift giving easy while supporting local merchants and it promotes "Shop Chamber Members First." Participating businesses to date are:

Anytime Fitness
Apothecaria
Bochetto Day Spa
Books on Main
Boyce & Sons, Inc.
Buster's Main Street Café
Cascade Home Center
CG Habitat for Humanity
D & D Automotive
Dirtcheapcopies.com
El Tapatio
Lavender Field Embroidery
Mangiano's Pizzeria
Pinocchio's Pizza
Safeway
South Lane Wheels
Territorial Seed Company
The Bookmine
The Espresso Bar'n
The Flower Basket
Universal Trucking
Wal-Mart

December Business After Hours

Join us at the Cottage Grove Sentinel for this month's Business after Hours on Thursday, December 17 from 5:30 – 7:00pm, 116 N. 6th Street. Bring your business card to enter the door prize drawing, 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 by attending this Chamber program.

Save the Date! Chamber Annual Awards Banquet – January 16

Mark your calendars and plan to attend our 67th Annual Awards banquet. The Chamber Banquet is a time to recognize those in our community who truly stand out through volunteerism and excellent business practices. It is also an opportunity

to recognize student excellence and teacher appreciation among other recognitions. This year our banquet will held on January 16, 2016. Members save the date on your calendar and don't forget to submit your nomination for Business of the Year! Anyone can submit nominations for First Citizen.

We need your nominations

We are preparing for our 2016 Annual Awards Banquet and seeking nominations for Business of the Year and First Citizen. Please take a moment to share your nominations with us and return them to the chamber office on or before November 30, 2015. Please note incomplete applications may be subject to removal of consideration.

Last year's winners: First Citizen - Ruth Linoz

Business of the Year – Edward Jones

First Citizen Nominee Guidelines - The recipient of this award will have demonstrated leadership and dedication, and put forth efforts that have contributed to the improvement to the community and its citizens. Please submit the name of the individual whom you feel is worthy of this prestigious award. Don't count on someone else submitting the name. Don't let a valued member of our community miss out on this well-deserved recognition!!

1. Must have lived or worked in the community for a minimum of 3 years
2. Involved in at least one community and/or civic activity or organization
3. Must submit a short biography and at least 3 photos along with this form. The more photos we have allows for a better presentation of the nominee.

Business of the Year Nomination Guidelines - This recipient business and its employees of this award will have demonstrated outstanding business practices and involvement in the community. Nominations shall be for commercial enterprises.

1. Must be a Chamber member in good standing for a minimum of 3 years
2. Demonstrated progressive business attitude that promotes Cottage Grove
3. Actively supports the community through school, city, and Chamber functions
4. Demonstrated involvement by both employer(s) and employee(s)

5. Please include at least 3 pictures of the business, its owner, employees at work, or the business being involved in the community along with this form.

Forms are available the Chamber Programs tab at www.cgchamber.com, at the Visitor Center Desk or you can request one by email to beth@cgchamber.com



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

Officers

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

Emerald Valley Resort Event Center
South Lane County Fire & Rescue
Commonwealth Financial Network
Universal Trucking

Directors

Lorraine Eriksen
Sheri Henry
Lindsay Laycock
Gary Manly
Linda Schmale
Candace Solesbee
Don Williams
Judd Van Gorder
Rhonda Worley

Cottage Grove Souvenirs
Banner Bank
Lindsay Laycock - Jim Downing Realty
Cottage Grove Sentinel
Retired, Past Board President
Shampoo Dolls Salon
Retired, Past Board President
Carousel Delicatessen & Ice Cream Shoppe
CJW, LLC

2015 Chamber Board of Directors, Advisors and Staff

Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce

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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, Bill Caldwell - Volunteer Coordinator, Tara Sue Hugart, Susan Jeppesen, Suzy Kanich, 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
Mavis Bradsby	Bookkeeper