



# CHAMBER NEWSLETTER

**Our Mission: The Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce promotes economic vitality through advocacy and collaboration with its members and the larger community.**



Travis Palmer,  
Executive Director

#### Director's Note

The Board of Directors for the Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce will soon gather for their annual strategic planning retreat. A great deal of time will be spent discussing the current status of the Chamber as well as if any changes in our mission and focus should be made. As a group, we'll look at organizational goals from the past year and talk about our successes and our failures. Our calendar of events will be reviewed to see if, or when new events and educational forums can or should be added and where we might be trying to do too much. Finally, we'll establish our budget for the year and make some hard decisions about what we want to do, what we should do and what we are actually able to do. The ultimate purpose of spending this time together is to review and revise the Chamber's plan for how to support businesses and foster a stronger economy in Cottage Grove.

We strongly encourage all of our chamber-member businesses to provide feedback to our board members about how the Chamber of Commerce can help establish a stronger and more diverse business community. If you like what we are doing, please tell us and tell other business owners so they too can join the Chamber and support the ongoing economic development of Cottage Grove. If you have ideas about how we can improve, please contact the Chamber office or one of our board members and let us know right away. If your business is not yet a member of the Chamber and you want to talk about how to shape the future of Cottage Grove's business community, our staff and board members would love to speak with you about how to become a member and get involved. If, your business has been struggling to grow, it may be time to take a good, hard look at your business plan and make some decisions about how you want your business to move forward and how you want to see the community develop.

I want to thank all of the businesses and individuals who support the local economy through their membership in the Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce. It is those who show up, and those who speak up, whose voice and ideas will be heard. Please pick up our directory or visit our website at [www.cgchamber.com](http://www.cgchamber.com) to see a complete list of our members and thank them for making Cottage Grove a better place to live, work, and conduct business.

#### CHAMBER NEWS

During this season of Thanksgiving we want to offer a **Special Thanks** to the following businesses for their expression of confidence over the years through continuous support with their membership of 25 years or more!

Army Corps of Engineers	25
Auto Art Body & Paint, Inc.	27
Banner Bank	35
Birch Avenue Dental, Inc.	35
Bob Baysinger	31
Brad's Cottage Grove Chevrolet, Inc.	25
Carl's Jr.	26
City of Cottage Grove	25
Coast Fork Nursing Center, Inc.	29
Cottage Grove Ranger Station	31
Cottage Grove Sentinel	35
Dot's Trophy Shop	36
Emerald People's Utility District	33
Farmers Insurance Group	26
First American Title Insurance Company	35
Gifford & Gifford LLP, Attorneys at Law	27
Grace Olson	32
Hoyer Accounting	28
Jim's Point S Tire and Auto Service	32
KNND 1400AM	30
Lane Community College Cottage Grove Center	31
Les Schwab Tire Centers	35
McDonald's Restaurant	32
Northwest Community Credit Union	35
Northwest Natural	35
Pacific Power	30
Pacific Yurts, Inc.	35
PayneWest Insurance	35
PeaceHealth Cottage Grove Community Medical Ctr	31
RG Media Company	35
Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel & Crematorium	51
South Lane School District	35
South Lane Wheels, Inc.	29

Starfire Lumber Company	33
The Flower Basket & Gift Boutique	33
Umpqua Bank	35
Weyerhaeuser Company	35
Wildish Sand & Gravel Co.	25

#### Board Member Election Results

The Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce is a nonprofit membership organization 501 (c) (6). The role of the Board of Directors is to advise, govern, oversee policy and direction, and assist with the leadership and general promotion of the Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce so as to support the organization's mission and needs. All nonprofit boards are responsible for setting policy. However, members of "working boards" such as ours are responsible for implementing the policy as well.

Reaching out to our members seeking those who will serve on the board for a two year term begins in July each year. A slate of candidates is presented to the board by the nomination committee. Because we are a membership organization, our members have the right to petition additional names of candidates to serve on the Chamber Board. As there were no petitions filed, board nominations are closed and the nominated slate of candidates was declared elected by the Board of Directors at the October board meeting. Those who will serve for the 2018/2019 term are:

**Cassie Barrong** – Oregon Aviation Historical Society  
**Bret Munk** – Canna Closet  
**Lloyd Williams** – South Lane Television  
**Ryan Gifford** – Gifford & Gifford, Attorneys at Law

A special thanks to you for your commitment to our community and assisting in our goal to make Cottage Grove a better place to live and do business!

#### Chamber Board of Directors Retreat

We'd like to offer special thanks to Enhanced Members Cottage Grove Sentinel, Lane Electric, and Pacific Power for supporting our annual Board of Directors Retreat. This meeting is of significant importance to the Chamber because it sets the course and the tone for how we will offer support to the local business community. At the retreat our board members get an in depth look at the Chamber Mission as well as the annual budget. They look at the previous years' successes and failures and determine each committee's goals for the upcoming year. We sincerely appreciate the time and dedication that each of our board members brings to the table. Without their efforts, the Cottage Grove business community would not be what it is today. Thanks again to our sponsors, supporters, and those who volunteer their time and knowledge to make this all possible.

**Support Chamber member businesses and our local economy - "Shop Local and Shop Chamber Members first"!** - With the arrival of fall, we are reminded of the season of thanksgiving and all that we have to be thankful for. The Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce would like to send our members a special thank you. Thank you for participating in chamber membership, by doing so you are also participating in the economic growth and development of the Cottage Grove community. After all, when you own a local business where are you generally doing business? Locally, right?

When asked to name our favorite restaurant, café, or shop, it is typically a unique Cottage Grove shop with personal appeal. Our town is loaded with these types of businesses. The challenge is that these local merchants rely on our business. Without us as shoppers they could close their doors. The Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce would like you to consider redirecting some of your spending this holiday season. When local shoppers spend \$100 in Cottage Grove, \$45 of that revenue actually goes back into the local economy, in the form of wages, rents, and materials. If we spend that same \$100 in Eugene little to none will come back to Cottage Grove. So let's "Think Local" this holiday season - There is literally something for every shopper at our local businesses. In one day of shopping you can support a myriad of businesses and meet the goal of your shopping needs.

The day after Thanksgiving is the biggest shopping day of the year. We encourage you to "Think Local" and shop Cottage Grove for all your holiday needs!

#### Fall Tip: Protect your businesses and yourselves.

In the fall and especially in Cottage Grove, the leaves start coming down off the trees pretty fast. If the sidewalk in front of your business starts collecting leaves, be sure to sweep or blow them off as quickly and as often as possible. Leaves hide bumps and cracks in the sidewalk that may cause a person to have a serious fall. They can also get very slippery when they accumulate even a small amount of moisture. It only takes a few minutes and removing leaves and other debris from areas where people walk by your business not only prevents injury and potential lawsuits, but it also makes your business look good and is more inviting to potential customers.



## 2017 Chamber Board of Directors, Advisors and Staff

Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce  
 700 E. Gibbs • Cottage Grove, OR • P. (541) 942-2411  
[info@cgchamber.com](mailto:info@cgchamber.com) • [www.cgchamber.com](http://www.cgchamber.com)

#### 2017 Chamber Board of Directors:

Thank you for your hours upon hours of volunteer time, commitment, and service!

#### Officers

Candace Solesbee, President	Shampoo Dolls Salon
Chloe Beckes, Vice President	Jack Sprats
Ruth Linoz, Secretary	South Lane Wheels
Gary Manly, Treasurer	Cottage Grove Sentinel
Joe Raade, Past President	South Lane County Fire & Rescue

#### Directors

Cassie Barrong	Oregon Aviation Historical Society
Ryan Gifford	Gifford & Gifford Attorneys at Law
Dean Kruschke	Cascade Home Center
Bret Munk	Canna Closet
Layla Beth Munk	CG Body Studio
Shuana Neigh	Buster's Main Street Café
Danny Solesbee	Five Flying Monkeys
Don Williams	Retired, Past Board President
Lloyd Williams	South Lane Television
Judd Van Gorder	Carousel House B&B and Catering

#### Advisors

Tim Herrmann	PeaceHealth Cottage Grove Community Medical Center
Celeste Krueger	Pacific Power
Richard Meyers/Mike Fleck	City of Cottage Grove
Garrett Bridgens	South Lane School District

#### Visitor Center Volunteers:

Heidi Abbott, Dotti Bittner, Tara Sue Hughart, Susan Jeppesen, Suzy Kanich, Marie Longfellow, Judd Van Gorder, Sharon Van Gorder, Penny Westling, Nolene Wheeler.

#### Staff:

Travis Palmer, Executive Director  
 Beth Martin, Office Manager  
 Mavis Bradsby, Bookkeeper  
 Jessica Baker, Membership Development Coordinator

#### Five Year Vision Statement:

The Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce promotes Cottage Grove as a prosperous destination community. Economic vitality is at the heart of everything we do. As a resource for businesses, we are the conduit that provides advocacy, marketing, education, and networking opportunities to over 300 members.