



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.

Director's Note

December is another big month for the Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce. On Saturday we kicked off another season of "Christmas in Cottage Grove," which included a Breakfast with Santa at the South Lane County Fire Station, the Jingle Bell Run/Walk, the South Valley Holiday Farmer's Market in the Armory, the tree lighting ceremony, a scavenger hunt in the Historic District, lots of shopping and store specials at local businesses, a Christmas block party with hayrides & caroling by the Faith Center, Dr. Snapp's Holiday House Bazaar, a stained glass display at the Cottage Grove Museum and of course... Pictures with Santa at City Hall. This special day of events signifies the start of a wonderful time of year in Cottage Grove.

Also this month, there are several businesses downtown that are going to stay open late and have specials leading up to Christmas so there's no reason not to shop local and support the many great businesses right here in Cottage Grove. "Seussical" is playing at the Cottage Theater, Saginaw Vineyards continues their Friday Night Live concerts, the Village Green has a huge holiday light display and The Cottage Grove Sentinel will host the last Business After Hours of the year with a fun Christmas theme. If you know of any other events happening in the area, be sure to submit them to the Chamber's Community Events Calendar on our website so we can help promote them.

Over the next few weeks, we at the Chamber hope that all of our local businesses will continue to be creative and come up with fun and innovative ways to put themselves in front of their target audience. We encourage businesses decorate their stores inside and out, with seasonal displays. Use both traditional and social media to attract new and returning customers. Hand out coupons and flyers that encourage customers to come back in the near future. Make up silly games and contests that are fun but don't cost a lot of money. Think about the experience you want your customers to take with them after they have visited your business and the story that you want them to tell their friends and family about the great time they had in Cottage Grove during the holidays.

Christmas in Cottage Grove continues to be one of our town's best signature events. Unlike Black Friday though, it doesn't end after just one day. There are as many opportunities for a businesses to prosper as your imagination can come up with. Most importantly though, it's an opportunity to bring our community together to share, laugh, visit, give thanks, reminisce and celebrate whatever is important to each of us at this time of year. On behalf of the Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce, we sincerely hope you have a safe and happy holiday season and we wish you the best in 2018!

****Christmas in Cottage Grove kickoff events are organized each year through collaboration among the Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce, the Main Street Program, the Cottage Grove Faith Center, the City of Cottage Grove and many others. Supporting sponsors of this year's event are: Pacific Power, The Cottage Grove Sentinel, EPUD, Lane Electric, South Lane Fire & Rescue, Walmart and EBID.*

CHAMBER NEWS

It's Not Too Late

We continue to receive inquiries about the China trip planned for April of 2018 and are excited to have travelers still joining the tour! If you or anyone you know is interested, give us a call (541) 942-2411. The deadline is December 15, 2017. There is still plenty of room.

Call for Nominations

We are preparing for our Annual Awards Banquet and seeking nominations for Business of the Year, First Citizen, and Non Profit of the Year awards. Please take a moment to share your nominations with us. Forms are available at the Chamber office or can be downloaded from the "Chamber Programs" page on under the Chamber tab our website: www.cgchamber.com. Please return nominations to the chamber office on or before 5:00pm Friday, December 15, 2017. Once nominations are received a ballot will be sent via email to our members asking you to cast your vote. The qualifications to be eligible for these awards are below:

First Citizen

The recipient of this award will have participated actively in a variety of service projects and programs leading to civic improvement, human welfare, and/or environmental enhancement. The nominee also must have a positive impact on the social or economic climate of the community, and influence the community through his or her leadership.

Business of the Year

Businesses nominated will have made a substantial contribution to the community for the last five years or longer, have employees who individually and collectively participate in the community, demonstrates outstanding business practices, and the physical presence of the business adds to the economic vitality and livability of our community. Businesses can nominate themselves or another Business they feel should be recognized.

Non-Profit of the Year

The recipient of this award is considered an outstanding model of mission achievement and community impact through innovation, leadership and community empowerment, impact, transferability, and partnerships.

	10/27 thru 11/30	YTD
2017 Visitor Center Stats		
Phone calls:	163	2,104
Walk-In Visitors:	140	2,336
Relocate Requests:	1	45
Visitor Requests:	1	43
Referrals to Chamber Members:	38	598
2017 Website Stats		
Business Directory Searches Total Listed:	620	7347
Member Page Views:	474	5517
Event Searches:	1057	10,669
Events Viewed:	804	11,504
Hot Deal Searches:	20	312
Job Searches:	42	463

December Business After Hours

Cottage Grove Sentinel will host Business After Hours on Thursday, December 21, 2017 116 N. 6th Street from 5:30 – 7:00pm. Please join us for a time to network with other businesses, learn something new, try your hand at cookie decorating, and have some fun! And don't forget your business cards to share with others and enter the door prize drawing. Your attendance reinforces the spirit in which the Chamber provides these monthly activities. Cottage Grove and Creswell Chamber members are encouraged to attend this classic, fun networking event!

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!" To become a participating business, contact the Chamber at 541-942-2411.

Participating businesses to date are:

Ambrose Collectibles
Apothecaria
Books on Main
Boyce & Sons, Inc.
Buster's Main Street Café
Cascade Home Center
CG Habitat for Humanity
D & D Automotive
Dirtcheapcopies.com
Earthclick.net
El Tapatio
Elu Fusion

Emerald Fitness Club (CG & Creswell)
Lavender Field Embroidery
Pinocchio's Pizza
South Lane Wheels
Sweet Springs Family Farm
Territorial Seed Company
The Bookmine
The Espresso Bar'n
The Flower Basket
The UPS Store
Vanessa Peterson, LMT
Wal-Mart

Community Calendar

For more details on the events listed below, visit the Event Calendar on our website at www.cgchamber.com.

Monthly: Third Tuesday Poetry Night

Nov 24- Dec 31: Christmas at the Village Green

Weekends in December: The Camera Counter

December

8 Genealogy Lobby Christmas Sale
8 Winter Watershed Soiree
9-16 Auditions: The King Who Wanted A Whale
11 Regular City Council Meeting
18 Promotions Committee
20 Chamber Board Lunch
21 Greeters Committee Meeting
21 Business After Hours @ Cottage Grove Sentinel
25 Christmas Day
25 Regular City Council Meeting
31 New Year's Eve
31 Gamesquall!

Are you a Cottage Grove Chamber Member?

Call the Sentinel today to reach other chamber members by placing an ad on this page!

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2017 Chamber Board of Directors, Advisors and Staff

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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.