



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

Last week the Chamber held its Annual Business Luncheon where 50 business owners and managers converged to hear about the "State of Business and the Chamber" in Cottage Grove. We started out by recognizing our 2017 Candace Solesbee and our 2018 President Chloe Beckes. We also said goodbye to retiring board member Joe Raade and thanked him for his service to the Chamber. I attempted a whirlwind presentation on how the Chamber is representing Cottage Grove through a wide variety of organizations and community partnerships and thanked our members for their ongoing support through membership and sponsorships. Next, Mayor Jeff Gowing gave a short version of his "State of the City" address and voiced his support and excitement for the upcoming Animal House 40th Anniversary Event on August 18th 2018. From Lane County's Economic Development Department, Sarah Means spoke about the economic outlook and the work they are doing around the county and to promote new business and industry including some exciting news around possible reinvestment in wood products industries. Finally, we capped off the luncheon with a presentation from Scott Diehl, General Manager of PakTech, who shared their experience with expanding into Cottage Grove. Diehl also gave us an idea of what we can expect to see from PakTech going forward as well as some positive job growth predictions. It was great to enjoy lunch with so many of our business and community leaders and be able to walk away with a lot of new information about what is happening in right here in our community. It was an ambitious agenda but we still managed to cover everything and end on time. I want to thank everyone who attended and I encourage all of our members to be sure to pick up a copy of our Annual Report, which is available at the Chamber office.

As the Chamber continues to improve and evolve, I want to remind our members that we are here to serve as the collective voice for Cottage Grove's business community. We survive through the support of our members and we need your feedback in order to keep serving the business community in the best way possible. Our Board President and I have made a commitment to go out regularly to visit with the business community face-to-face and listen to what our local businesses have to say. No sales pitches, no hidden agendas, we just want to hear how your business is doing and find out how the Chamber can help to make Cottage Grove a thriving business community. Every person who attended our Annual Business Meeting was handed a sheet with some questions to help us gather valuable feedback about what businesses value and what they'd like to see from the Chamber in the future. I'll offer the same questions to the entire Cottage Grove area business community. Please take a minute to consider these questions and submit your answers via email (info@cgchamber.com) by mail to 700 E. Gibbs Avenue, Suite C in Cottage Grove. We need your feedback and we are thankful for it.

1. What do you believe is the Chamber's most important function? Are we performing that function to your expectations? If not, how could we do better?
2. What do you think would make Cottage Grove more attractive to new, relocating and expanding businesses?
3. What do you believe is the most important reason to be a member of the Chamber of Commerce?
4. What should the Chamber do more of (or less of)?
5. Is there anything more you'd like to tell us?

Introducing our 2018 Chamber President – Chloe Beckes

Welcome! My name is Chloe Beckes. I am looking forward to another great year with The Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce, this year as the board President. I have lived in Cottage Grove for over twenty years and have owned a business here for the last five. I love watching Cottage Grove grow into a thriving connected community.



The Chamber is the conduit that provides advocacy, marketing, education, and networking opportunities to our members. The board's job is to keep that vision alive. We ask that the chamber members provide an assessment of their needs, so we may better direct that vision. Please reach out to any of our incredible board members who are always willing to listen.

Business is good! And this year the Chamber of Commerce will continue to support the economic vitality of your businesses by providing educational forums, legislative updates, engaging business afterhours events, and promotion of Cottage Grove as a destination community. We hope that you will help guide us and help keep this Chamber strong.

Thank you for being an integral part of our community. We look forward to seeing you around town!

Ribbon Cutting/Grand Opening – Thursday, March 22 at 27 N. 6th Street

South Lane Mental Health will celebrate the opening of expanded outpatient therapy offices in the former Lane Council of Governments' Senior & Disabled Services building in downtown Cottage Grove. South Lane Mental Health, which also has offices at 1245 and 1345 Birch Avenue, and a recovery program at 75 S. 5th Street, was established in Cottage Grove in 1988. The nonprofit organization's mission is to restore hope and renew lives through mental health services, support, and advocacy. Services include: outpatient community and school-based counseling, crisis response, medication and case management, a model Intensive Community-based Treatment Services for Children program, recovery services for ages 14 and up, and a foster home and supported living services for adults with persistent and severe mental illness.

SHARE YOUR NEWS

Tell the membership "What's New" with your business. It's good business to let other chamber members and businesses know if you have a new manager/employee(s), new hours, an exciting event, or any news you wish to share. You can drop off or mail your information to the chamber office or email it to beth@cgchamber.com.

Where Is The Better Deal?

Before you jump into your car to go shopping in another town, ask yourself these questions:

- Would that out-of-town store contribute funds to buy uniforms for your child's team?
- Will they let your favorite club/church/organization put posters in their windows?
- Will they buy candy from your child to help them earn a week at camp?
- Would they buy tickets for your charity's raffle?
- Do they contribute to the local economy by paying local taxes?
- Do they volunteer for any of the community projects or causes that need a helping hand?
- Will they be around to service the product if it breaks?

Support the local economy, "shop Chamber members first"! (Big font please)

March Business after Hours - Thursday, March 15 from 5:30 – 7:00pm. Lane Community College Cottage Grove Center will be our host this month and have a lot of activities planned to include:

- * A self-guided tour of the facility including the South Lane Family Resource Center and Dental clinic, and audio recording studio
- * Some spring classes will be highlighted
- * The cribbage room will be set up if anyone wants to partake in a game
- * The GED and SBDC (Small Business Development Center) will have information available

They are also taking this opportunity to introduce our new audio recording booth!! Anyone interested will be able to record a short sample piece. There will be some books of poems and short verses from which people can pick. An instructor will run the equipment so guests just have to read into the microphone. You can bring your own thumb drive and take your recording home, or it can be emailed later.

Refreshments will be served and don't forget your business card to enter into the door prize drawings! Cottage Grove and Chamber members are encouraged to attend. We look forward to seeing you there!

Future Business after Hours:

April – South Lane Mental Health
May – PeaceHealth Cottage Grove Community Medical Center

Join us in supporting Chamber member businesses and our local economy and "Shop Chamber Members first"! The chamber's number one goal is to create a strong local economy. All of the programs and benefits supported by your membership investment go toward achieving that goal. Your membership is also a commitment to the entire community and a pledge of support for the economic growth and vitality of the Cottage Grove area. We thank each of you for your **New** and **Renewed** commitment to the Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce. We look forward to a bright and successful year!

New Members

PakTech

Scott Diehl, General Manager
230 Davidson
(541) 743-4060
Scott.diehl@paktech-opi.com
Manufacturing – Plastic Injection Molding

Renewing Members

Banner Bank, Commonwealth Financial Network, Cottage Grove Sentinel, Creswell Chamber of Commerce, Dirtcheapcopeis.com, First American Title Company, Grove Medical Equipment, Lane Electric Cooperative, Prospectors & Goldiggers, South Lane Mental Health Services, Inc., South Lane School District, Torero's Family Mexican Restaurant

Community Calendar

We are happy to publish your 2018 events on our community events calendar.

To submit your organization's event:

Go to www.cgchamber.com.

Click on "Event Calendar"

Click on "submit new event"

Fill in the blanks and submit

Once your event is approved, it will appear on the community calendar.

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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March

- 2 The King Who Wanted a Whale Opening @ Opal Center
- 11-31 Architecture of Internment traveling exhibit
- 12 Regular City Council Meeting
- 15 **Business After Hours – Lane Community College**
- 15 **Greeters Committee**
- 17 Great Backyard Bird Count
- 19 **Chamber Promotions Committee**
- 21 **Chamber Board Lunch**
- 26 Regular City Council Meeting
- 26 A Moveable Feast: Europe

2018 Visitor Center Stats	2/1/2018 thru 3/1/2018	YTD
Phone calls:	181	387
Walk-In Visitors:	237	490
Relocate Requests:	3	7
Visitor Requests:	2	4
Referrals to Chamber Members:	86	189

2018 Website Stats		
Business Directory Searches Total Listed:	630	1757
Member Page Views:	584	933
Event Searches:	699	1390
Events Viewed:	568	978
Hot Deal Searches:	28	67
Job Searches:	42	89

Special Thanks to our 2018 Enhanced Members

PLATINUM PLUS
Cottage Grove Sentinel
GOLD
Pacific Power
SILVER
Banner Bank
Blackstone, Inc. – Windermere Real Estate
City of Cottage Grove
Emerald People's Utility District
Lane Community College Cottage Grove Center
Lane Electric Cooperative
Northwest Natural
PeaceHealth Cottage Grove Community Medical Center
South Lane County Fire & Rescue
South Lane School District
Walmart
Weyerhaeuser



2018 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 • www.cgchamber.com

Advisors

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

Visitor Center Volunteers:

Heidi Abbott, Dotti Bittner, Suzanne Heubner-Sannes, Tara Sue Hughart, Susan Jeppesen, Suzy Kanich, Marie Longfellow, Judd Van Gorder, Sharon Van Gorder, Penny Westling, Sherry Wendi, Nolene Wheeler.

Staff:

Travis Palmer, Executive Director
Beth Martin, Office Manager
Mavis Bradsby, Bookkeeper

2018 Chamber Board of Directors:

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

Officers

Chloe Beckes, President
Danny Solesbee, Vice President
Ruth Linoz, Secretary
Gary Manly, Treasurer
Candace Solesbee, Past President
Jack Sprats Restaurant
5 Flying Monkeys
South Lane Wheels
Cottage Grove Sentinel
Shampoo Dolls Salon

Directors

Cassie Barrong
Don Williams
Judd Van Gorder
Layla Beth Munk
Lloyd Williams
Ryan Gifford
Shauna Neigh
Oregon Aviation Historical Society
Retired, Past Board President
Carousel House B&B and Catering
CG Body Studio
South Lane Television
Gifford & Gifford Attorneys at Law
Buster's Main Street Café

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.

LANE ELECTRIC
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

E-BILL COMPANY INFO SERVICES CONSERVATION & RENEWABLES OUTAGE INFO CONSTRUCTION TOUCHSTONE ENERGY

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Member-Owned & LOCALLY CONTROLLED
Warm, Comfortable & EFFICIENT
Sustainable, Carbon-Free & GREEN
High Quality, Unparalleled SERVICE
Low Cost, Clean & RENEWABLE

IT'S WHAT WE DO!

LANE ELECTRIC CO-OP
787 BAILEY HILL ROAD
P.O. BOX 21410
EUGENE, OREGON 97402
541.484.1151

Visit us at www.laneelectric.com to learn more!