



CHAMBER NEWSLETTER

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



Len Blackstone

A Call to Action

Our small town needs you to make a difference. Not just *talk* about making a difference. Not just *think* about making a difference. We need you to *act* in ways that will truly make a difference.

Every one of us has special talents which can help Cottage Grove become healthier, richer, and kinder. Some talents might be loud and in the limelight; some might be quiet and in the shadows. Regardless, please act.

Want to start a business that creates jobs? Go for it. Gather a group of friends for fun? Just do it. Raise monies to help the homeless? Make it happen. Create art that celebrates beauty? By all means. Mentor a young child or adult? They need you. Write a story that reveals truths or celebrates traditions? We need you.

Quit thinking, "Tomorrow, tomorrow." Please take action and pursue your passion and potential. When you do, you can help us celebrate community. Each of us is significant, a contributing member where all of us have something to offer.

You will not always be successful. My wife, Deb, and I have lived in Cottage Grove for 35 years. Raised a family. Seen good times. But, we've also experienced the bad. Yes, sometimes they linger and may even leave scars – reminders that the next time we need to be more cautious.

We've been bankrupt. Lost our home, had our car repossessed, buried our son, and nearly lost our daughter. We know trauma. The highs of happiness and the

depths of despair. We know the physical pain of broken hearts. Been near the edge of hopelessness more times than we care to remember.

Through it all, we've learned to be both tough-minded and tender-hearted. Welcome to life.

As we go forward, you may fail. I may fail. But please believe me when I say it's better to have tried and failed than never to have tried at all. Kind of like love, don't you think? So, please, just try.

Be everything you can be. If you have scars, turn them into stars. That's what we're trying to do. When you do, we will be a healthier, richer, and kinder community because of you.

So, give it a shot. Do everything you can. Together, let's build a better tomorrow for our children and our community.

Walking with you,

Len Blackstone

Len is Vice Chair of the Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. He's also an entrepreneur, management consultant, and CEO of Blackstone Inc., a real estate development firm based in Cottage Grove. Blackstone is currently renovating the Bank Building in Cottage Grove's Downtown Historic District.

**Len Blackstone, Vice Chair
Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce**



March Breakfast Club

Friday March 13, 2020
The Brewstation
106 S. 6th Street.
Program is FREE to Chamber Members.
\$5 for Non-Chamber members
Breakfast can be purchased at the Brewstation for \$10
8:00am - Breakfast is served
8:00 - 8:30am - Networking
8:30 - 9:30am - Program
Let us know if you'll be eating. Please RSVP by noon to Beth at (541) 942-2411 or beth@cgchamber.com on Thursday the 12th.

Chamber Gift Certificates – Buy Yours Today!



To date there are 25 Chamber Member businesses to choose from! Those participating businesses are: *Ambrose Collectibles, Apothecaria, Bochetto Day Spa, Books on Main, Cascade Home Center, D & D Automotive, Dirtcheapcopies.com, El Tapatio, Emerald Fitness Club, Jack Sprats, LLC, Lavender Field Embroidery, Pinocchio's Pizza, Quality Inn Cottage Grove, Sanity Chocolate, Shoppe Free Rein, South Lane Wheels, Stacy's Covered Bridge, Sweet Springs Family Farm, Territorial Seed Company, The Bookmine, The Cottage Bowl, The Espresso Bar'n, The Flower Basket, The UPS Store and Wal-Mart.*



THE CHAMBER'S NUMBER ONE GOAL

is to create a strong local economy. All of the programs and benefits supported by chamber membership investments go toward achieving that goal. Membership in the chamber is also a commitment to the entire community and a pledge of support for the economic growth and vitality of the Cottage Grove area. Join us in thanking Chamber member businesses and support our local economy and "Shop Chamber Members first"!

**THANK YOU
Renewing Members**

Axe & Fiddle, Banner Bank, Bochetto Day Spa, Bohemia Gold Mining Museum, City of Cottage Grove/Middlefield Golf

Course, Cobalt Computer Services, Inc., Emerald People's Utility District, Great Days Education Center, Jack Sprats, LLC, Lillibolero, Prospectors & GoldDiggers, South Lane County Fire & Rescue, South Valley Consulting, LLC, The Talk of The Town, Torero's Family Mexican Restaurant, US Bank, Wal-Mart.

Join us for March Business after Hours

Lane Community College Cottage Grove Center/Lane Small Business Development Center will host this month's networking event on Thursday, March 19 from 5:30 to 7:00pm, 1275 S. River Road. In addition to the usual networking, food/drink, door prizes and fun, Guests will be able to learn about our upcoming spring term community education classes as well as classes and resources available for small businesses.

In addition to the normal food and door prizes we will have an optional mini cooking demo. Participants will create their own vinaigrette or balsamic salad dressing with a quick tutorial on flavoring options. Guests will be able to take home their creation! Cottage Grove and Creswell Chamber members are encouraged to attend this classic, fun networking event! *We hope to see you there!*

Spend Your Money in Cottage Grove and See a Return on Investment

The busiest shopping days of the year are behind us but the need for goods and services continue. If we make sure our everyday purchases stay local, Cottage Grove will continue to grow and thrive. For a large percentage of Cottage Grove residents that work in Eugene it can be a temptation to also take care of everyday needs while in Eugene. The chamber would like to offer a challenge to all of our residents who work outside of Cottage Grove to refocus your spending right here in our great community. It may take a little extra planning but the return on investment is worth it! There are many reasons to shop local but below are 6 main reasons why:

- 1. Building Community-** The casual encounters you enjoy at neighborhood businesses build long term relationships with business owners you can trust. Plus you're more likely to bump into friends and neighbors.
- 2. Economic Vitality-** Each dollar you spend at a local business returns 3 times more money to our local economy than if you were to shop in Eugene!
- 3. Character-** Preserve the things that make our town special. Cottage Grove is full of unique businesses that you can't find anywhere else. Support them so they will remain here in the future.

4. A Healthier Environment- When you spend your money at local businesses you use less fuel, thereby reducing your carbon footprint on our planet. You'll also get fresher produce from local markets in our area.

5. Lower Taxes- Local businesses generate more tax revenue per sales dollar, which helps keep your taxes lower!

6. Save Time and Money – It can easily cost over \$8 in gas just to drive to Eugene and back (more if you get less than 20mpg). Your time is worth something too. Even if you only value your time at \$15.00 per hour, that means it will cost you \$23 just to drive there and back. If you're not saving at least that much by shopping out of town that means you're probably losing money by not shopping local!

Chamber Calendar

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

- (Chamber events in bold)**
- * Bingo American Legion Hall every Friday
- * Penny Poker with Magnolia Gardens Resident every Friday
- * Grief Support Group 3rd Tue/mo
- * Dementia Support Group – 4th Wed/mo
- * Downtown Art Walk the last Friday/mo

March

- 8 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 9 Promotions/Events/Tourism Committee**
- 9 Regular City Council Meeting
- 10 Chamber Ambassadors**
- 13 Breakfast Club**
- 17 Poetry Night!
- 19 Business After Hours – LCC/SBDC**
- 23 Regular City Council Meeting
- 24 Jazz Jam at The Cottage
- 29 Bridal Open House

April

- 3 Mamma Mia Opening at Cottage Theatre
- 7 History Pub (Partners in History)
- 10 Breakfast Club**
- 13 Promotions/Events/Tourism Committee**
- 13 Regular City Council Meeting
- 14 Chamber Ambassadors**
- 16 Business After Hours - Opal Center for Arts & Education**
- 21 Poetry Night!
- 27 Regular City Council Meeting
- 28 Jazz Jam at The Cottage

2020 Chamber Board of Directors, Advisors and Staff:

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

OFFICERS

- | | |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Chair | Danny Solesbee, 5 Flying Monkeys |
| Vice Chair | Len Blackstone, Blackstone, Inc. – Windermere Real Estate |
| Secretary | Ruth Linoz, South Lane Wheels |
| Treasurer | Gary Manly, Cottage Grove Sentinel |
| Past Chair | Candace Solesbee, Shampoo Dolls Salon |

DIRECTORS

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Chrissy Chapman | Covered Bridge Brewing Group |
| Alyssa Gomez | Sweet Springs Family Farm |
| Brent Hoover | The Grove Café & Lounge |
| James Kline | The Espresso Bar'n |
| Shane May | Emerald Fitness Club |
| Cameron Reiten | KNND |
| Dale Smith | Coast Fork Feed Company |
| Judd Van Gorder | Carousel House B&B & Catering |
| Tiffanie Williams | PayneWest Insurance |

ADVISORS

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Richard Meyers | City Manager |
| Candace Solebee | Cottage Grove City Council |
| Tim Herrmann | PeaceHealth Cottage Grove Community Medical Center |
| Dr. Yvonne Curtis | South Lane School District |
| Ryan Gifford | Gifford & Gifford Attorneys at Law |
| Molly Murai | Main Street Program |

Visitor Center Volunteers:

Heidi Abbott, Sarah Heuser, Suzanne Huebner-Sannes, Tara Sue Hughart, Susan Jeppesen, Rebecca Lane, Marie Longfellow, Judd Van Gorder, Sharon Van Gorder, Penny Westling, Sherry Bricher-Wendt.

Staff:

Beth Martin, Office Manager
Mavis Bradby, Bookkeeper

**Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce
700 E. Gibbs • Cottage Grove, OR
P. (541) 942-2411**

info@cgchamber.com • www.cgchamber.com

Special Thanks
to our 2020
Enhanced Members

PLATINUM PLUS

Cottage Grove Sentinel

GOLD

Pacific Power

SILVER

Banner Bank

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 School District

Weyerhaeuser