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



Shauna Neigh **CEO/President**

As I sit here in my mother in laws kitchen, the sun is shining, birds are singing and eating from the birdfeeder, deer mulling through the woods and flowers springing upon the bank. What a beautiful spring morning, I am grateful. Mom lives in rural Califon, New Jersey. Califon is a small historical town surrounded by horse farms and wineries. There are many similarities between Califon and the hidden gem we have in Cottage Grove. Mom and Pop are avid historians. Their passion for the past was contagious and part of the reason why my family chose Cottage Grove for our home. Sitting here, it feels like nothing has changed over the years but it has. I have the rare opportunity to see the effects of this pandemic on both sides of the country. Like Cottage Grove, this small town in New Jersey is closed.

This got me thinking. How is the Califon New Jersey Chamber of Commerce handling the shut down? Are there any ideas I could implement into our town? I found out the Chamber of Commerce is run a bit differently here. They have a County based Chamber of Commerce. I contacted the president/CEO of the Hunderton County Chamber of Commerce, Christopher J. Phelan. He is running an office of 3 employees to support a 430 square mile area with a total population of 124,000. His Chamber Area consists of several small towns, the largest city has 27,000. Like us, he is well aware of small town struggles. The difference being his Chamber consists of 75% Business to Business interaction and 25% Travel and Tourism while ours relies heavily on tourism.

Here we are on complete opposite sides of the country and the story is the same. We are working, investigating and creating programs to help our people/business owners through this hard time. It's all we think about. Our daily activities consist of meeting with local champions, creating and attending informational webinars and working with legislature to convey the needs of small businesses. We are both on the cusp of reopening. We had conversations on what reopening might look like. His county borders Pennsylvania, who is very eager to open, while New Jersey is a bit more conservative. Oregon, however, has decided to ally with our bordering states. Yesterday there were 2,150 confirmed new cases in New Jersey and 50 deaths. That is in one day! Last time I checked the total count in Oregon, from the beginning, was 2,354 confirmed cases and 92 deaths. This is staggering. Total count in New Jersey, 114,000 confirmed cases and 6,442 deaths. Keep in mind, the total population in New

> Special Thanks to our 2020 **Enhanced Members**

PLATINUM PLUS Cottage Grove Sentinel

> **GOLD Pacific Power**

<u>SILVER</u> **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

Walmart

<u>Weyerhaeuser</u>

Jersey (8.9 million) is more than double the population of Oregon (4.3 million). Also New Jersey is 8,729 square miles vs. Oregon at 98,466 square miles. It seems distance is the key.

After everything that I've seen and heard while here, in my opinion, Oregon is doing what we need to do. Before my travel out east, I thought there was lack of consideration for areas that have had small or no spread of infection. In areas where there are small numbers, why not reopen quicker? But since being here I've realized, it isn't a matter of numbers, it's a matter of respecting those around you and maintaining social distancing. I know everyone is eager to get everything started and create the 'new normal'. I say, yes, let's create a reopening plan but we have to make sure we are planning the safest way possible. Stay safe Cottage Grove, be patient and stay home for now.

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 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

Wal-Mart

The Oregon **Employment** Department would like your help to provide this information to as many local and small businesses as possible, especially the self-employed, and those with independent contractors.

This morning the Employment Department sent the attached news release announcing the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program. This is the most recent in a series of agency activities to get more unemployment benefits to the greatest number of workers affected by COVID-19 business closures.

Oregonians who are eligible for this program include individuals who do not qualify for or cannot collect benefits on a regular unemployment insurance claim. This includes Oregonians who:

- are self-employed and not subject to unemployment insurance tax;
- perform work as an independent contractor;
- · perform work not subject to unemployment insurance tax, such as agricultural workers;
- · did not earn enough in wages or work enough hours to qualify for regular unemployment benefits;
- · exhausted regular unemployment benefits, and are not eligible for another extension.

The PUA program provides unemployment benefits to a group of workers who have never before been eligible for benefits, using processes and tax and other documentation the Employment Department has never worked with before now. The agency has recruited and trained staff to process PUA claims. Still, we know this program will be met with tremendous need. The PUA process can take as little as one week or several weeks, depending on the claim complexity.

These benefits are retroactive to the first week a worker was impacted by a qualifying COVID-19 reason, potentially from the week starting February 2, 2020 through the week ending December 26, 2020. The news release and our agency's CARES Act page (<u>https://govstatus.egov.com/ui-benefits/</u> **CARES**) provide detailed information for filing PUA claims.

Lane County Survey

Lane County would like to know more about our stakeholders' recovery priorities to inform recovery strategies and support. By participating in this survey you will support and encourage an inclusive recovery process, engage traditional and nontraditional community partners, and provide a strategic local approach to coordinate recovery efforts while increasing the resilience of our communities. The six recovery areas that are being covered are: Economic Recovery; Health and Social Services; Housing; Infrastructure Systems; Community Planning and Capacity Building; and Natural/Cultural Resources.

Please participate in this survey: https:// app.smartsheet.com/b/form/257d53de8da 047d28c3cec74fb4b980b

Safely Support Campaign

The Safely Support promotion coordinated by the Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce and Main Street Program, was to encourage community members to support the local restaurants in Cottage Grove. In this promotion, participants were asked to take photos or selfies of their carry-out meal from any of the 36 local restaurants and post it to the Chamber of Commerce's FB page. From April 10 to April 30, there were 139 participants. From those, ten winners were chosen to receive a \$25 gift certificates from one of 36 local restaurants. We are so appreciative of the ongoing support of these restaurants through these challenging and uncertain

Congratulations to the winners!

The winners and the businesses they won gift certificates to: Kelsey Burrell - BaDooBaz Espresso Meagan McNary - Chalerm Thai Erica Dunbar - Dutch Bros Coffee Jenn Simons - Spice of India Joelene Piper - Village Green Julleanna Sickler - Buster's Main Street Cafe Anna Coop - Dominos Tiffany Howell - Tiffaniee's Birdella Colburn Taddei - McDonalds Ginny Smythe - Torerros Mexican



THE CHAMBER'S NUMBER ONE GOAL

is to create a strong local economy. This is a difficult time for all of us. As we learn more about COVID-19, I know businesses and the individuals they employ may be overwhelmed by feelings of uncertainty and fear. But we should be confident that our community will come together and recover from this unprecedented time. The Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce is committed to support the entire business community during this time of need. We hope you consider us a resource. Once this is over, please remember the benefits of being a Chamber Member and continue to support our efforts for the years to come.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

The chamber's number one goal is to create a strong local economy. All of the programs and benefits supported by a chamber membership investment 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 supporting Chamber member businesses and our local economy and "Shop Chamber Members first"!

Jim Downing Realty - Valerie Nash, Broker

616 E. Main Street (541) 942-6077 valerie@oip.net Real Estate

Nova Health Kristine Rice 1445 N. Gateway Blvd (541) 942-7000 marketing@novahealth.com Health Care

2020 Chamber Board of Directors, Advisors and Staff:

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

Candace Solesbee, Shampoo Dolls Salon

OFFICERS Chair

Restaurant

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

DIRECTORS

Past Chair

Chrissy Chapman Covered Bridge Brewing Group Alyssa Gomez **Sweet Springs Family Farm** The Grove Café & Lounge **Brent Hoover** James Kline The Espresso Bar'n **Emerald Fitness Club** Shane May 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

PeaceHealth Cottage Grove Community Medical Center Tim Herrmann

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:

Shauna Neight, CEO/President Beth Martin, Office Manager Mavis Bradsby, Bookkeeper

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

info@cqchamber.com • www.cqchamber.com