



CHAMBER NEWSLETTER

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**

**Message of Thanks
from the CEO**

2020 proved to be a year of change. The year that altered the course of history. I realized when I accepted this position, I had some big shoes to fill. Travis did a wonderful job bringing this community together and creating very special relationships with our business owners. Little did I know the extreme effect this year would have not only on our businesses but on our community.

The January Breakfast Club was hosted by Mark Molina. The topic was "Leadership in hindsight – Looking back at what we've learned and finding confidence moving forward". Mark is a facilitator with great insight. Our meeting quickly turned to one of compassion with a realization of the importance of mental health. Its amazing the creativity and resilience our community and business owners have shown through 2020. The need within our community to interact on a personal level is incredible. We are all craving it. One member shared the constant need of a 'Plan B'. While you certainly cannot predict what is around the corner, the importance of being flexible and open to alternatives is crucial. This year has insisted on alternate thinking. Look at what you have done. What have you learned? How will this experience shape your future? I have found this era of mass information completely frustrating but must admit, without the use of technology I would have been lost. I have been lucky to have a solid Board of Directors who have been so supportive. I have called on the Chamber of Commerce Community for advice and had an abundance of support from the Cottage Grove community and our City Officials. For that I am thankful

While 2020 was unexpected, we at the Chamber were able to make many necessary changes.

- 2020 brought:**
 New CEO President
 New office and visitors center
 New office/membership manager
 Updated website
 Restructure of membership levels

- 2021 will bring:**
 New board
 New ideas
 New members
 New partnerships
 Tourism videos
 A reset of the Chamber Community focus

Next Phase of Federal Funding

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), in consultation with the Treasury Department, announced that the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) will re-open the week of January 11 for new borrowers and certain existing PPP borrowers. To promote access to capital, initially only community financial institutions will be able to make First Draw PPP Loans on Monday, January 11, and Second Draw PPP Loans on Wednesday, January 13. The PPP will open to all participating lenders shortly thereafter. Updated PPP guidance outlining Program changes to enhance its effectiveness and accessibility was released on January 6 in accordance with the Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Non-Profits, and Venues Act.

This round of the PPP continues to prioritize millions of Americans employed by small businesses by authorizing up to \$284 billion toward job retention and certain other expenses through March 31, 2021, and by allowing certain existing PPP borrowers to apply for a Second Draw PPP Loan.

Key PPP updates include:

PPP borrowers can set their PPP loan's covered period to be any length between 8 and 24 weeks to best meet their business needs;

PPP loans will cover additional expenses, including operations expenditures, property damage costs, supplier costs, and worker protection expenditures;

The Program's eligibility is expanded to include 501(c)(6)s, housing cooperatives, direct marketing organizations, among other types of organizations;

The PPP provides greater flexibility for seasonal employees;

Certain existing PPP borrowers can request to modify their First Draw PPP Loan amount; and

Certain existing PPP borrowers are now eligible to apply for a Second Draw PPP Loan.

A borrower is generally eligible for a Second Draw PPP Loan if the borrower:

Previously received a First Draw

PPP Loan and will or has used the full amount only for authorized uses;

Has no more than 300 employees; and

Can demonstrate at least a 25% reduction in gross receipts between comparable quarters in 2019 and 2020

Contact your local borrower for more information.

Board Retirement Recognition:

2021 will be a time of change for the Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce. I would like to thank the following board members for their support and creativity through the past year.

Danny Solesbee brought humor and energy to the board. His forward thinking and no-nonsense attitude when it came to business propelled the Chamber to where



we are today. Danny is always the first to sign up to help, host or support. He has been my daily phone call or text. I will miss working with him.

Candace Solesbee has a strong love for our community. Her dedication and insight is irreplaceable. Many years ago, while



sitting in her chair at Shampoo Dolls, Candace shared a piece of herself that I will never forget. "In the business industry you must project positivity and that's what you will get back". I think of this often both personally and professionally. She is an inspiration.

Ruth Linoz has been with me through my years as the Cottage Grove Main Street



Coordinator and now through the Chamber of Commerce. She has been my direct line to reality. I am a person of several great ideas (in my mind) and passion to take them all on at the same time. She grounded me and always made sure I didn't take on too much. Ruth will continue with our Ambassador's Committee. I am thankful for her knowledge

Judd Van Gorder has been a part of everything for as long as I've been in



Cottage Grove. He and his wife Sharon have been long time volunteers with the Visitor Center, the Covered Bridge Tours, catering our events and has a plethora of Cottage Grove knowledge. There is far more that Judd has done with our community, I could write a page on him alone. Judd will continue to volunteer with the Visitor Center, we are so thankful for him.

Businesses are open in Cottage Grove.

They need you now more than ever. Please shop local first. **Please consider ordering from one of our local restaurants:** Contact for hours of operation.

- Arby's (541) 649-1440
- BadooBaz (541) 337-3250
- Bonanza (541) 942-4188
- Bat Cat Wings & Things (541) 606-3561
- BGQ's Doner Kebab (541) 505-4347
- Burger King (541) 942-8153
- Busters Main Street (541) 942-8363
- Carl's Jr (541) 942-8280
- Chalerm Thai (541) 942-8851
- Dairy Queen (541) 942-2916
- Darkside of the Q..... (541) 649-1419
- Dominos (541) 942-1100
- Dutch Bro's (541) 955-4700
- El Quetzal (541) 603-9358
- El Tapatio (541) 767-0457
- Espresso Barn (541) 942-2926
- Grill n Chill (541) 968-1134
- Jack in the Box (541) 942-7010
- KFC (541) 942-7505
- Little Caesar's Pizza (541) 942-2551
- McDonalds..... (541) 942-0024
- Papa Murphy's Pizza (541) 942-0892
- Pinocchio's Pizza (541) 942-5531
- Pretzel Joes (541) 942-6130
- Rally Coffee (541) 214-5461
- Shady Oaks Plants & Produce (541) 942-5004
- Spice of India (541) 767-2786
- Stacy's Covered Bridge..... (541) 767-0320
- Subway (541) 942-1931
- Taco Bell (541) 767-0192
- The Brewstation (541) 942-8770
- The Village Green (541) 942-2491
- Toreros Mexican Family Restaurant (541) 942-1155

2021 Chamber Board of Directors, Advisors and Staff:

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

OFFICERS

- Chair: Len Blackstone, Blackstone, Inc. - Windermere Real Estate
- Vice Chair:
- Secretary: Tiffanie Williams, PayneWest Insurance
- Treasurer: Chrissy Chapman, Covered Bridge Brewing Group
- Past Chair: Danny Solesbee, 5 Flying Monkeys

DIRECTORS

- Alyssa Gomez: Sweet Springs Family Farm
- James Kline: The Espresso Bar'n
- Shane May: Emerald Fitness Club
- Cameron Reiten: KNND
- Dale Smith: Coast Fork Feed Company

ADVISORS

- Richard Meyers: City Manager
- Candace Solebee: Cottage Grove City Council
- Dr. Yvonne Curtis: South Lane School District
- Ryan Gifford: Gifford & Gifford Attorneys at Law
- Molly Murai: Main Street Program

Visitor Center Volunteers:

Heidi Abbott, Suzanne Huebner-Sannes, Susan Jeppesen, Judd Van Gorder, Sharon Van Gorder, Penny Westling, Sherry Bricher-Wendt.

Staff:

- Shauna Neigh, CEO/President
- Georgia Haskell, Office/Membership Manager
- Mavis Bradsby, Bookkeeper

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