

Regional Connections

Newsletter of Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments

**Issue I
March 2010**

If you're looking for funding...

for a community project, OCWCOG staff can help you find funding sources and prepare grant applications. Planners at OCWCOG have extensive experience with state and federal programs that fund infrastructure improvements, community facilities and economic development projects. As an OCWCOG member, your jurisdiction can receive up to 10 hours of unbilled technical assistance annually, and grant writing is included in the types of help we can provide. Call Scott Wilson at 541-912-8473 or Pam Silbernagel at 541-924-8426.

Welcome to the first issue of *Regional Connections*. It has been some years since we have offered a newsletter to keep the region informed about our activities. This newsletter is a bit different from those of the past - a staff team of reporters/editors will put each edition together. In addition, individual staff members and perhaps members of our many boards and committees will provide articles from time-to-time. I hope that this diversity of voices enhances the publication and we welcome feedback, as well as ideas for future articles. Initially, we will provide the newsletter quarterly in both hard copy to our members and more widely via our website: www.ocwcog.org.

Cynthia Solie
Executive Director

Industrial Lands and Wetlands Mitigation Project



OCWCOG is working with eight cities (Corvallis, Adair Village, Albany, Millersburg, Tangent, Halsey, Harrisburg and Lebanon) with a common problem: most of their vacant industrial land contains wetlands regulated by state and federal agencies. Meeting state and federal requirements is challenging for prospective businesses and can mean uncertainty about the ability to develop, significant

delay and cost to mitigate any impacts to wetlands.

We are beginning the third phase of the project with a clearer idea of the number and type of industrial sites needed over the next couple of decades. Now underway are a business plan for a wetland mitigation bank that would be jointly operated by the cities. (Purchasing credits from a wetlands bank is one way for a developer to mitigate impacts to wetlands on their site.) We are also working with state and federal regulators to streamline the process of obtaining permits when a specific industrial development is proposed, while retaining and perhaps enhancing the ecosystem functions of wetlands that may be impacted.

More information: Pam Silbernagel (541-924-8426) or Cynthia Solie (541-924-8465).

Adult Protective Service Successes

OCWCOG's Adult Protective Services (APS) provides protection and intervention for adults who are unable to protect themselves from harm and neglect. APS conducts investigations of suspected sexual, physical and verbal abuse; neglect; self-neglect and financial exploitation. APS involves screening, triage or consultation, on-site assessment, investigation, intervention,

documentation and risk management and engagement with resources and agencies throughout the community.

In the last few months, we have been involved in several tense and high profile cases in Lincoln County:

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No Increase for Member Dues

In January, the OCWCOG Board elected to maintain member dues at the current level for next fiscal year (starting July 1, 2010), citing the impact of the economic situation on local government finances.

While accounting for only 1% of OCWCOG's overall budget, member dues are used to match federal dollars. This doubles their positive impact on services to seniors and persons with disabilities as well as on community and economic development activities.

More Seek Food, Medical and Financial Assistance

The number of individuals receiving Medicaid, case management and/or food benefits through OCWCOG is growing. The increase is due to the growing numbers of seniors and the current economic downturn.

People Receiving Assistance

County	FY 08-09	FY 09-10*
Linn	4630	4925
Benton	1488	1568
Lincoln	2270	2377
Total	8388	8870

*estimated

Tim McQueary — Champion for Seniors



Tim McQueary is a public servant with a heart full of compassion and optimism about the future of our region. Tim's retirement, following a 37-year career with Wah Chang in Millersburg, is filled with his volunteer work.

In addition to Tim's continued service on the OCWCOG Senior Services Advisory Council, his public service includes: Governor's Commission on Senior Services, DHS's Aging and Disability Resource Center Advisory Committee, Ad Hoc Committee for Senior Meals, Statewide Medicaid Rules Advisory Committee, Work Group on Housing With Services, Public Transportation Advisory Committee, Board of the Cascades West Senior Services Foundation and the board of the Community Health Clinics of Benton and Linn Counties.

In addition to Tim's continued service on the OCWCOG Senior Services Advisory Council, his public service includes: Governor's Commission on Senior Services, DHS's Aging and Disability Resource Center Advisory Committee, Ad Hoc Committee for Senior Meals, Statewide Medicaid Rules Advisory Committee, Work Group on Housing With Services, Public Transportation Advisory Committee, Board of the Cascades West Senior Services Foundation and the board of the Community Health Clinics of Benton and Linn Counties.

Tim's unique vision includes the ability to see the value of working at the regional scale to

address the issues faced by seniors and those among us who struggle daily to meet their basic needs. As Chair of OCWCOG Senior Services Advisory Council, Tim's leadership in addressing challenges faced by the Senior Meals Program led to strengthened community partnerships and re-energized meal sites.

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*Paula Hammer
Eligibility Specialist*

On The Move in Oregon

In 2008, Oregon launched the "On the Move in Oregon" project to assist Medicaid clients who have been residing in nursing facilities for at least six months to transition to less costly and more appropriate living situations. Two Transition Coordinators are housed at OCWCOG working with nine nursing facilities in our region.

To date, we have facilitated twenty-six success-

ful transitions with six additional residents to move later this month. The program has spurred development of additional living facilities, including foster homes specializing in meeting the needs of those with Alzheimer's and dementia, neurological and bariatric issues.

Across the State, 192 residents have chosen to integrate into community care settings.

*Bonnie Griffin
OTM Transition Coordinator*

APS Successes in Lincoln County (continued from page one)

- We appeared before an Administrative Law Judge who issued a decisive guilty verdict which closed a foster home and culminated with the arrest and criminal conviction of a care provider.
- A case of neglect, criminal mistreatment and financial exploitation of an elderly person went before the Grand Jury and led to guilty pleas and incarceration of those involved.
- A recent investigation of an elderly woman who said she was held against her will is proceeding to the District Attorney and Grand Jury with charges of kidnapping, aggravated theft, and criminal mistreatment to be filed against the woman's daughters.
- An elderly man with lung disease was able to return to live at home when doctors, hospital, law enforcement, animal services, tow trucks, bulldozers and neighbors with brooms and shovels came to the aid of an elderly couple. The couple's home, which they shared with some 50 animals, had been piled from floor to ceiling with garbage and boxes covered with bugs. It had been impossible even to drive onto the property.

Annually, OCWCOG investigates over 300 APS cases.

*Nancy Bugea Oswald
Case Manager, Adult Protective Services*

Building Disaster Resilient Businesses



Disaster preparedness is a concern for many communities, especially those in coastal areas.

Facing the unique threats of winter wind storms, earthquakes, and tsunamis, it is vital that coastal residents and business owners are prepared at home and in the workplace. OCWCOG planner, Theresa Conley, has been working with business owners, communities, and economic development partners in Lincoln County to build preparedness among coastal businesses.

Key accomplishments of the effort include:

- Development of the Disaster Resilience Toolkit for Businesses: <http://www.co.lincoln.or.us/DisasterPreparation/>
- Publication and distribution of: *Disaster Preparedness for You and Your Household* and the *Disaster Resilience Toolkit for Businesses*
- Production of a televised PSA featuring local business owner Pam Kylo (stay tuned for more to come!)
- Direct outreach to hundreds of business owners at Chamber meetings and through workshops co-sponsored by the Oregon Coast Community College Small Business Development Center.

To learn more, visit the online toolkit.

Collaboration to Improve Telecom Infrastructure

Recent improvements in the region's fiber network have enhanced high speed connections for communities along the Highway 20 Corridor and improved the linkage of the Central Oregon Coast with the Mid-Willamette Valley.

City managers, administrators and IT staff met on February 19th to explore the opportunities this and other technology changes might offer for sharing IT resources, improving electronic security and reliability while reducing IT costs.

Participants recognized that high-speed connections have in general improved, however, the discussion focused on the lack of access to the high speed network for some

communities in the region, and the "last mile" issue of getting service to all parts of a community.

Albany City Manager, Wes Hare, noted the limitation this presents for business expansions and economic diversification. He proposed that our region explore development of a regional telecommunications master plan. The plan would identify deficiencies in the current network and strategies and projects to improve connectivity.

Further discussion about how to proceed will be discussed at a meeting on March 19th.

For more information: Steve Martinenko (541-924-8445).

Staff Highlight



Patty Basey has experienced all phases of case management in her nearly 24 years of service. Currently, she specializes as a case manager for all commercial adult foster homes in Linn and Benton Counties and relative foster care in Albany and North Linn County. Patty's daily work includes evaluations and annual reviews of clients eligibility for Medicaid services. Patty works with each client to create a person centered care plan that promotes independence and well being.

Bonnie Griffin
OTM Transition Coordinator

Planning Underway for Regional Economic Development Event

This spring OCWCOG will incorporate new ideas to improve the regional economy into the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) of the Cascades West Economic Development District (CWEDD).

Focusing on innovative projects and approaches, OCWCOG will ask local governments and economic development partners to showcase their best community and economic development efforts in brief videos. These will be posted for others to view and learn from, and the "best of the best" will be showcased at the Regional Economic Development Forum in June.

There will also be a competition for outstanding community and economic development initiatives that could be implemented within the region in the next five years. Selected projects will have the opportunity to vie for a place in the CEDS, technical assistance, and possible funding.

Managed by OCWCOG, CWEDD is the federally-designated planning organization for Linn, Benton, Lincoln and Lane Counties.

More information: Pam Silbernagel (541-924-8426)



Administration

1400 Queen Ave SE Ste 201
Albany, OR 97322
541.967.8720 ph
541.967.6123 fax

Community & Economic Development

1400 Queen Ave SE Ste 205A
Albany, OR 97322
541.967.8551 ph
541.967.4651 fax

Senior and Disability Services

1400 Queen Ave SE Ste 206
Albany, OR 97322
541.967.8630 ph
541.967.6423 fax

Senior and Disability Services/Toledo

203 N Main St.
Toledo, OR 97391
541.336.2289 ph
541.336-1510

Technology Services

1400 Queen Ave SE Ste 104
Albany, OR 97322
541.924.8454 ph

Veteran Services

301 SW 4th
Corvallis, OR 97333
541.758.1595 ph
541.758.3127 fax

Member Governments:
COUNTIES: Benton, Lincoln,
and Linn CITIES: Adair
Village, Albany, Brownsville,
Corvallis, Depoe Bay, Halsey,
Harrisburg, Lebanon, Lincoln
City, Millersburg, Monroe,
Newport, Philomath, Scio,
Siletz, Sweet Home, Tangent,
Toledo, Waldport, Yachats
OTHER: Confederated Tribes
of Siletz, Port of Newport, Port
of Toledo

Cascades West Council of
Governments is an Equal
Opportunity Lender, Provider
and Employer

Toledo: Where Community Makes it Happen



As demonstrated by its selection this year as an “All America City” finalist, Toledo thrives from a base of “can-do” attitude. This community spirit has allowed the City, Port District, Toledo Development Association (TDA), and other local partners to progress on several fronts this year:

- The Port of Toledo is turning a structurally unsound fire hall into a major economic development asset - flexible space for new businesses.
- OCWCOG and Oregon Downtown Development Association worked with the TDA to create the base for the just-launched “Made in Toledo, Oregon” effort. The resulting buzz has encouraged location of a new art gallery, an arts cooperative, and redevelopment of three buildings.
- Designated by the State as a “Transforming Main Street USA” community, the City has stepped up to the plate with staff and an operating structure. Lincoln County funding for a market analysis and a new “Quilt Quest” event are a few of the City’s early accomplishments.
- Recent closure of a boat haul-out which repaired and maintained large recreational and commercial fishing boats left a hole in the Coastal marine economy. The Port is finalizing the purchase of this yard, which it will operate under agreements with repair businesses.
- TDA with the help of City, Port, and Georgia Pacific just placed interpretive signs that provide visitors with a view of the processing systems and information about the GP paper mill, Port facilities and the marine industry.
- The City and the Port jointly resolved regulatory issues by teaming City land with Port funding to create a wetlands mitigation area at Olalla Slough. This wetlands mitigation area addresses Port dredging and City industrial lands development needs.

As City Manager Michelle Amberg notes, “One of our biggest achievements in the past year are the partnerships that we are developing. I think those are going to be great community-builders in the future.”

*Pam Silbernagel
Community Development Planner*

Live Well, Age Well, Thrive!

The 6th Annual Health Expo

Saturday, May 8th, 9-3pm

Linn County Fair and Expo Center

FREE chair massages, health screenings, fitness demonstrations, and exciting speakers. Join us for this fun filled day!

We aim to educate, empower, and enable our community members to pursue a healthy lifestyle and thrive!