

Issue 3
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Regional Connections

Newsletter of Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments

Providing Lending Opportunities for Local Businesses

Over the past three decades, OCWCOG has been providing entrepreneurs in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties with funding to open or expand their businesses.

We have assisted businesses with: 527 loans, the infusion of \$82,040,879 in loan dollars into our communities creating or retaining 3,070 new jobs.

Recently, our lending staff packaged an SBA 504 loan for Fitness Over 50, Inc. for the purchase and renovation of property on Philomath Boulevard in Corvallis. With this assistance, Fitness Over 50 was able to move from their leased location of 4,000 sq feet to a new location including 1.3 acres, which is being developed to house a finished structure of 14,000 square feet.

Fitness Over 50 has been in business since 1998 and currently has six employees.

For more information about lending opportunities, please contact Diane Searle, Loan Program Manager at (541-924-8480).

Part of our mission at OCWCOG is to pull federal, state and private dollars into the region to address community problems and to provide services that benefit our residents. Over the last 12 months, we have entered into contracts and grant awards that will bring more than \$500,000 in new outside dollars into our region. This funding will improve the “readiness” of industrial lands, expand food processing activity, put capital into the hands of small businesses and it will better connect seniors and people with disabilities with the resources they need to remain healthy and active in their communities. Looking ahead to next year and beyond and the prospect of continued reductions in state and federal budgets, it is difficult to predict what success will look like—it may mean hanging on to as much of our basic program funding as possible. However, OCWCOG will continue to pursue every reasonable grant and outside funding opportunity to augment scarce local dollars. Please call, if we can be of assistance.

Cynthia Solie,
Executive Director

Creating a Regional Economic Development Identity



In Photo, from left to right: Skip Rung, ONAMI; Mary Foley Phillips, OSU Tech Transfer; Theresa Conley, OCWCOG; Commissioner Jay Dixon, Benton County; Maureen Keeler, Port of Newport; Mayor Sharon Konopa, City of Albany.

OCWCOG is coordinating an effort to create a regional brand. More than just the development of a logo or a tagline, this branding strategy will allow the Linn-Benton-Lincoln region to work together in new and more effective ways as it positions itself for future economic opportunities.

Expectations are that banding together under a common brand provides all of us with more assets to leverage. As a region, we also have greater diversity of labor force characteristics and community settings to market. Perhaps most importantly, by working as a region we each gain the critical mass required for our communities to be noticed.

Several themes that could be used to promote the region emerged during a well-attended, highly participatory, workshop hosted by OCWCOG's Community and Economic

Development Committee on October 19th. A few examples of what we could build on are:

- We're proud of the *high level of innovation and creativity* in the region. We have a strong tradition of supporting those who take risks, turning ideas into new products and processes. Today, this entrepreneurial spirit permeates throughout our research centers, businesses and communities.
- Our region contains a *wealth of amenities that provide for a high quality of life*. The natural, geographically diverse beauty of the region provides a world-class backdrop for a broad variety of community settings and activity options.
- The region is *well-positioned to accommodate new businesses*. We offer a central West Coast location and strong transportation connections. Our economic development network is positioned to support businesses from the idea stage to location of major new facilities.

The next step is for the Branding Task Force to develop a package of recommendations for review by workshop participants and economic development partners. We anticipate the branding effort will involve creation of a regional website and revamping of industrial recruitment materials.



The partners of Valley VanPool (Point2Point Solutions, Cherriots Rideshare and OCW-COG) have collaborated since 2003 to enhance vanpooling options.

Today there are 20 vanpools serving approximately 250 commuters on 11 routes with stops in 15 communities. A new route serving Sweet Home to Salem just began and a Corvallis to Newport route is being developed.

In addition to providing needed transportation options, Valley VanPool has a notable positive impact on our environment and pocketbooks.

Recent annual impacts in our region include:

Annual Road & Cost :
Vehicle Miles Saved:
947,768

Gallons of Fuel Saved:
47,388

Fuel Cost Savings:
\$127,948

Annual Emissions
Nox reduced:
859.96 lbs.

VOC reduced:
1,188.86 lbs.

CO3 Reduced:
14,847.12 lbs.

PM10 Reduced:
1.60 lbs.

Community Leader Spotlight: Maureen Keeler

The Port of Newport has been in the news a lot recently, and for good reason. The Port is full of activity, with the start of the crabbing season, construction for NOAA's Pacific homeport well underway, and work moving forward on the International Terminal renovation. Behind the scenes in all of these news items is Maureen Keeler, long-time Port of Newport staff.

Maureen Keeler grew up around boats, with her father and brother working as boat builders. Prior to coming to the Port of Newport in 1986, Maureen worked for the marine industrial division of Zidell Explorations in Portland. Now a Special Projects Manager with the Port, Maureen focuses her energy on grant writing and public outreach.

When Maureen is not assisting with the well publicized NOAA relocation, she continues to work on the Port's longtime project to renovate the International Shipping Terminal – which will make the terminal accessible to deepwater ships, commercial traffic, and possibly small cruise boats. Before all of that hap-

pens; however, the WWII ships that the terminal rests on need to be stabilized or removed and additional funding must be secured.

Maureen says her job is always challenging and never dull, What she enjoys most about her job; however, is that she is able to make a difference in the community through her work, resulting in the creation of many local jobs.



Maureen is the Port of Newport's appointed representative on the OCWCOG Board, and also serves on the OCWCOG Community & Economic Development Committee, the Board of the Cascades West Economic Development District, and serves as an alternate on the Cascades West Area Commission on Transportation.

The Corvallis Area MPO



Efficient transportation systems are becoming increasingly important as cities grow, commute patterns change and more

people seek alternative modes. Recognizing this, the federal government establishes regional transportation planning agencies within Metropolitan Areas with a population of 50,000 or higher. In the 2000 Census, the Corvallis area passed that population marker and became eligible to establish a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

The Corvallis Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) was established by the Governor of Oregon in 2002. CAMPO is steered by a Policy Board made up of representatives of the cities of Corvallis, Philomath and Adair Village, Benton County and the Oregon Department of Transportation. OCWCOG provides administrative services to CAMPO.

Recent accomplishments of the Corvallis Area MPO include:

- Adoption of the Corvallis Area Metropolitan Transportation Plan, which is currently being updated to describe transportation improvements through 2035;
- Development of Transportation Improvement Programs, which determine how federal transportation funds will be spent;
- Completion of the 9th Street Improvement Plan, which identified transportation solutions for a congested commercial area in Corvallis; and,
- Coordination of transit services (route & fees) between Benton and Linn Counties.

To learn more about the work CAMPO is doing in the Corvallis Metropolitan Area, visit their website at:

<http://www.corvallisareampo.org/>

Adair Village: Moving and Growing



Adair Village is literally moving and growing. In recent months, the residents of Adair Village have watched as the City moved two historic Camp Adair barracks to a location in the center of the city, participated in the inaugural ride of the 99 Express and supported the City as it annexed 120 acres into its urban growth boundary (UGB).

City Manager Drew Foster explained that the barracks have been sitting on their new foundations for nearly 3 months and are awaiting seismic retrofits, new roofs, windows and siding. The City's new historic resources committee is currently meeting with stakeholders to determine the best use of the barracks which could include new City Council chambers, meeting spaces, and offices for local public service agencies.

Adair Village also saw the inaugural ride of its first transit service, the 99 Express. The service is currently providing approximately 75 rides per week, primarily to commuters going to and from Corvallis. The city is

looking into special shuttles on OSU game days and additional coordination with commuters.

In addition, Adair Village has been growing in recent years. In the past 10 years, 116 new houses have been built in the city and the population has roughly doubled. To accommodate an expected tripling of the population by 2020, Adair Village has annexed 120 acres of land into the Urban Growth Boundary, which will enable phased residential development and sports fields for Santiam Christian School. The City is also working to enhance its employment land inventory by completing environmental assessments and an economic opportunities analysis for a city-owned industrial site northeast of town. It is the largest single-owned industrial site in the mid-valley.

Adair Village is ready to grow, and this is only the beginning.



Staff Highlight—Deb Scobie



On November 18th, OCWCOG sponsored a Family Caregiver and Resources Fair, which was attended by over 60 caregivers. It included speakers, information about community resources, free massages and treats for caregivers.

The event was a great success and could not have happened without the experience and dedication of Deb Scobie.

Deb has been with the COG for 23 years - first doing Information and Referral and licensing Adult Foster Homes, then working as a Medicaid/OPI Case Manager, and now as a Case Manager. What Deb likes most about her job is the variety of her tasks and working with clients and families in the Oregon Project Independence program and the Family Caregiver Support Services program. Deb has a Masters Degree in Social Work from Portland State University and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

When Deb is not working, she loves spending time outside hiking, biking, camping and windsurfing. She also enjoys doing glass fusing, glass bead making, and jewelry making.

AARP Forum

On October 21st, the Senior Services Advisory Council and the Disability Services Advisory Council of OCWCOG co-hosted a legislative forum with the AARP.

During the forum, candidates in Linn, Lincoln and Benton Counties shared their views on long-term care systems, home and community-based services and support for seniors and people with disabilities. The event was open to AARP members, Advisory Council members and the general public.

The Senior Services Advisory Council advises OCWCOG Senior and Disability Services staff and the OCWCOG Board of Directors on matters relating to the development and operation of a comprehensive service delivery system for older adults in the OCWCOG region. Council members also assist in monitoring the implementation of the Older Americans Act Area Plan.

The Disability Services Advisory Council gives advice on policies, quality of services and other issues important to people with disabilities. They advise the local offices of Senior and Disability Services.



OCWCOG Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Up and Running

Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) have been developed across the country to provide a single point of entry into long-term support services and to better support older adults and people with disabilities of all income levels. Seeing success with this model elsewhere, OCWCOG's Senior and Disability Services is now piloting the model through a federal grant from the Administration on Aging.

Information and assistance delivered through a call center is a key function of the ADRC. Our call center is staffed with five ADRC Specialists who answer calls live. These specialists are trained and have the experience to guide callers in determining the availability of services through our agency or through other human service programs and community resources. They answer questions, connect callers to appropriate community resources, or refer them to another level of assessment if it appears that there is a need for long-term care services. The ADRC also connects callers with short-term

assistance when an internal referral to our program is not appropriate and there are limited or no community resources available to assist the customer.

If eligibility for OCWCOG or state services is determined, COG staff will follow up with a home visit to review the stability of the situation and the potential for additional assistance. The OCWCOG is also in the process of beginning work on our Hospital 2 Home Project with Lebanon Community Hospital and will soon be offering Options Counseling for those who need help in developing a plan for their future care needs.

If you or someone you know have questions about services for older adults or people with disabilities please call us at 541967-8630 or 541-336-2289; or toll-free at 1-800-638-0510 or 1-800-282-6194, weekdays between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

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Community & Economic Development

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Senior and Disability Services

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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 fax

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
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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, and Port of Toledo.

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

OCWCOG Now Sponsoring RSVP in Lincoln County

Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments became the local sponsor of the Lincoln County Retired Seniors Volunteer Program (RSVP) this year. A key community service since it opened its doors in 1972, RSVP uses volunteers to meet the needs of the community. Volunteers distribute food to low-income families, assist patients and their families in two area hospitals, work with hospice, advocate for children through Court Appointed Special Advocates, read with children in the schools, cook and serve meals at community centers, and deliver meals to homebound seniors.

Additionally, RSVP manages several health-related programs for seniors and low-income people including the:

- Grab Bar Program
- Prescription Assistance
- Friendly Visitor Programs

RSVP programs help fill the service gap created by a sharp increase of seniors living in

Lincoln County, the reduction in services/resources by government agencies, and a weakened coastal economy.

Previously sponsored by the Red Cross, this program is a lifeline to those in need and continues to advance its goals of senior advocacy, services and community involvement.

Tamara Rosser serves as Director of RSVP, and works out of the OCWCOG's Toledo office, along with Sheryl Whetzell Volunteer coordinator and Kris Plummer, Office Volunteer.



RSVP staff: Kris Plummer & Sheryl Whetzell