

REGIONAL FOCUS

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION • VOLUME 34, NO. 3 • SUMMER 2011

Senior Meals Program Awarded \$25,000 in Grant Funds for Walk-In Freezer

This spring, the Senior Meals Program, a program of Senior & Disabled Services, was awarded \$20,000 through a Walmart Foundation Grant to the Meals on Wheels Association of America. The money will provide two-thirds of the funding needed to



replace the 17-year-old walk-in freezer at the central kitchen with a larger, energy efficient model.

The grant required securing additional matching funds from new sources. The Jill Heiman Vision Fund of the Oregon Country Fair awarded the project \$5,000

from their 2011 funding cycle. In addition, Curtis Restaurant Equipment has committed to donation in-kind labor up to \$2,400 for demolition and installation.

The Eugene Central Kitchen produces 180,000 fresh meals served annually in the 12 Senior Meals Café 60 Dining Rooms and all of the Meals on Wheels delivered in Eugene, Springfield, Creswell, Cottage Grove, Florence, Junction City, Oakridge and Veneta. Much of the kitchen equipment is nearly 30 years old and in great need of replacement.

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MEMBER AGENCIES

CITY OF COBURG
CITY OF COTTAGE GROVE
CITY OF CRESWELL
CITY OF EUGENE
CITY OF FLORENCE
CITY OF JUNCTION CITY
CITY OF LOWELL

CITY OF OAKRIDGE
CITY OF SPRINGFIELD
CITY OF VENETA
CITY OF WESTFIR
EMERALD PEOPLE'S UTILITY DISTRICT
EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD
FERN RIDGE LIBRARY DISTRICT

LANE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
LANE COUNTY
LANE EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT
LANE LIBRARY DISTRICT
LANE TRANSIT DISTRICT
PORT OF SIUSLAW
RIVER ROAD PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT

SCHOOL DISTRICT 19
SCHOOL DISTRICT 4J
SCHOOL DISTRICT 52
SCHOOL DISTRICT 68
SIUSLAW VALLEY FIRE AND RESCUE
WESTERN LANE AMBULANCE DISTRICT
WILLAMALANE PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT

Senior Meals Logo Updated

The Senior Meals Program unveiled an updated logo and tagline in July as part of an ongoing effort to modernized the program's image and continue to attract participants, volunteers and donors.

The new tag line expresses the two separate but related programs provided by the Senior Meals Program: Café 60 and Meals on Wheels



SENIOR MEALS PROGRAM

Offering Café 60 & Meals On Wheels

LCOG's Creative Services staff designed and updated the logo.

Café 60 is the group dining program for those who are age 60 and older of any income level, who are not homebound. The Senior Meals Program operates 12 Café 60s around Lane County. Over the years, this part of the program has been called many things: congregate meals, nutrition sites, elderly nutrition sites, dining sites, dining centers, etc. Staff and volunteers expect the more modern "Café 60" name to be more attractive to those who are currently welcome to attend.

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Senior meal programs across the country are experiencing increasing demand for services at a time when public funding is shrinking and the cost of food, utilities and gas are rising.

Grants such as these are vitally important, as commercial kitchen equipment is quite expensive and the funds for equipment replacement are extremely limited.



George Kloeppel

LCOG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DIRECTOR'S DESK

Change is in the Air

With the Recession dragging on and local government budgets strained by reduced revenue, it would be easy to characterize the summer of 2011 in dark terms. Cutbacks, service reductions, layoffs and furloughs are all on the public sector's agenda. LCOG is dealing with all of those things too. It is difficult to layoff good, loyal staff members. For different reasons, the federal, state and local governments in America are all feeling it. This moment is, as my father used to say, a "bad patch." My mother, on the other hand, typically observed the glass as at least half-full. I will lean on my mother's outlook for these musings.

I would argue that the glass is slowly getting fuller. Through all of the challenges that we face, positive things are happening in our region. More people are working and spending money. And in the metropolitan area, new buildings are going up. Construction crews are hard at work on, not only public infrastructure projects, but on investor-owned buildings. These are very good signs.

I have served as LCOG's Executive Director for over 30 years. That hardly seems possible—the passage of time is a slippery thing for the mind to grasp. When I was appointed in 1981, the area had just entered an economic recession. During my tenure, there have been good times and bad. And the community has grown and prospered. There are 73,550 more of us living in Lane County than did when I arrived.

Knowing that the community and the agency will have cyclical ups and downs, I have said to myself that, when the time comes for me to leave, I would prefer it to be on an up-cycle time. That hope may come to pass. But whether up or down, the time is soon coming for me to write another chapter in my life and retire. Though it is sometimes hard to acknowledge, a new executive at the LCOG's helm will likely be a very good thing for the agency. New ideas and fresh energy will facilitate positive change. I expect great steps to be taken by this organization over the next decade. I have always said that I am pleased and truly honored to have this job; it continues to be a "good fit" for me. Professionally, LCOG has allowed me to grow in capability, along with the growth of the organization itself.

At the end of November, I intend to change status and become a post-retirement contract employee of LCOG. I will be working a full-time schedule as Executive Director, and I will continue to have the same responsibilities, doing the same tasks on behalf of our Board of Directors and member governments. But the contract employee relationship is

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SIGN UP FOR ALERT ME!

Community Emergency Notification System “Alert Me” Registration Opens

What if you could learn about an emergency occurring near your home no matter where you are? If you carry a cell phone, now you can.

Public safety agencies in Lane County are expanding their Community Emergency Notification System, known as CENS, with the “Alert Me” registration for cell phone voice and texting. By registering on the CENS Alert Me website, Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) or cellular phone owners may receive the same emergency message and critical information about emergency situations as those with land-line phones — but only if registered. CENS allows public safety agencies in Lane County to identify an affected area and, if necessary, send a message and/or text that describes the situation and recommend protective actions residents should take. The CENS system will automatically call out to all land-line and opt-in telephone numbers within that geographic area and deliver the recorded message once a voice is heard. Some of the many uses of the system include: Tsunami Warnings, Emergency Evacuations, Natural Disaster Alerts, Missing Child Alerts, Hazardous Material Incidents and Neighborhood Emergencies.

To sign up for ALERT ME, go to www.lcog.org/alertme

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scheduled to end on June 30, 2012. At the end of this current fiscal year, I will clean out three decades of “stuff” from the office and take my leave. Meanwhile, the Board will have been engaged in a search process. That enterprise will be good for LCOG. Such times of transition are moments for thoughtful introspection. What do we want to do? What kind of a person do we need to help us in the coming years? And so forth.

While my decision to retire may be a minor news item, I am not gone; nor do I expect to be gone until next summer. I know all about terms such as “short-timer” and “lame duck,” and I want very much to avoid falling into those traps. LCOG needs a person in this office who is on his or her game. So please hold off on scheduling any wakes. There is much to do. But it seemed important to let Regional Focus readers in on the plans as they stand at present.



LSSC PRESENTS

**A SWEET AND
SPARKLING
AFFAIR****THURSDAY
OCTOBER 20
6-8 PM****VET'S CLUB
IN EUGENE****FUNDRAISING EVENT**

Lane Senior Support Coalition (LSSC) Hosts 4th Annual Fundraising Event

A SWEET AND SPARKLING AFFAIR will be at the Vet's Club in Eugene, Thursday, October 20, 6-8 pm. The event will feature 50 "bite sized" dessert samplings, wine tasting, gourmet coffee bar, raffles and entertainment. Tickets are \$10.00 each. All funds generated from this effort will go towards the Senior Emergency Support Fund which assists low-income Lane County seniors in crisis.

The LSSC is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization that supports seniors age 60 and over who live in Lane County, Oregon. It is the non-profit arm of the Senior Connection Program.

Many seniors walk an economic tightrope every month to make ends meet on limited incomes. Something like a car repair, an excessive utility bill or an unexpected medical cost can be the deciding factor in continuing an independent lifestyle. These financial emergencies can sometimes take precedence over food or rent, jeopardizing the person's ability to remain at home or putting health and well-being at risk. Often, all that is needed is a financial bridge to next month's income. The Senior Emergency Support Fund provides that bridge while supporting both the independence and dignity of the individual or couple seeking help. The fund provides eligible recipients with a one-time award of up to \$250 to cover emergency expenses that are not covered by any other local, state or federal sources.

A past recipient of these funds was a 60+ woman with stage 4 cancer who had lost her home due to medical expenses. She was living in a rodent-infested garage of a friend because she couldn't afford a rental deposit. A Senior Connection Coordinator was able to locate an affordable apartment, convince the apartment manager to accept \$250.00 from the senior emergency support fund as the deposit, arrange for the woman's friends to help with the logistics of the move, and thereby successfully relocate one very grateful woman to her new home.

For additional information on this event or to donate to the fund, please visit the LSSC web site at www.lanessc.webs.com or contact Patti Little, Senior Connections Program Manager, at 541-682-4374 or plittle@LCOG.org.



There is No Excuse For Elder Abuse Conference

On June 7, 2011 an Elder Abuse Conference sponsored by Lane Council of Governments Senior & Disabled Services, AARP and Lane Community College was held at Lane Community College. Mayor Kitty Piercy opened the conference and welcomed over 200 attendees. The presenters included Sheen Wu and Althea Rogers of the Department of Justice office who spoke on Consumer and Medical fraud; Liz von Wellsheim speaking on dealing with challenging behaviors; a panel of presenters including Judge Holland, Mary Sherriff, and Sarah Fudge talking about protective proceedings and the court and learning the difference between capacity and competency; and Mary Oschwald presenting on self-determination.



Mayor Kitty Piercy and S&DS staff Angela Phinney at the Elder & Vulnerable Adult Abuse Conference

Approximately 13 percent of Oregon's population is now 65 years or older with nearly 76,000 Oregonians having reached age 85. Over the next twenty years, those numbers will significantly rise. A recent study indicated that approximately 11 percent of US elders surveyed had experienced some type of abuse in the previous year. National studies tend to agree that each year between three and five million seniors aged 65 and older are injured, exploited, neglected or mistreated. Most of the time, the abuse occurs from someone who they depend upon for care or protection. In 2010-2011 Lane County Adult Protective Services received over 2,523 alleged abuse complaints.

What can we do to curb the problem of elder abuse? One answer is education. Everyone needs to know what elder abuse is and what to do about reporting it. The more we talk about it, the more real it becomes and then the more committed as a society we are going to be to doing something about it. June 15 was designated as International Elder Abuse and Vulnerable Adult Awareness Day and Governor John Kitzhaber proclaimed it as Oregon Elder and Vulnerable Adult Awareness Day.

The fact is that elder abuse can happen to anyone: a loved one, a neighbor, and when we are old enough, it can happen to us. It affects seniors across all socio-economic groups, cultures and races. It is a crime that thrives in silence. As a community and a state we have an opportunity to jump out a head of this problem by participating in conferences such as "There's No Excuse For Elder Abuse."

2035 Regional Transportation Plan Update



Lane Council of Governments, acting in its role as the Metropolitan Planning Organization — the lead agency for regional transportation planning for the Central Lane County area — is working together with local governments, the state, and Lane Transit District to update the region’s long-range transportation plan by November 2011.

Congestion, public health and safety are among the transportation issues our region will face over the next 25 years. The Regional Transportation Plan (the Plan), required by the federal government, is a guidebook for meeting and funding these challenges.

The Plan deals with all the regional parts of the transportation system—roads, bike paths and walkways, and plane, train, and bus service. It provides a vision for transportation investments throughout the region for the next 25 years and reflects community values.

The Plan enables our community to receive federal money for transportation and provides a framework for selecting which projects to build with federal money. It recommends how to invest more than \$2 billion in anticipated federal, state, and local transportation funding in the region for the next 25 years.

What’s in the Plan?

- Goals and objectives that describe the vision for our transportation system
- Policies that describe the actions to carry out the community’s goals
- Key projects that are needed to support future growth and economic trends
- Financial plan that estimates costs and expected funding
- Air Quality Conformity that evaluates whether our future transportation system meets limits for air pollution
- Congestion Management Plan that contains strategies to reduce crowding on roads and enable people and goods to move easily from one place to another

The update will:

- Extend the plan horizon to the year 2035
- Modernize the goals and objectives
- Adjust forecasts for population, employment, land use, and transportation
- Update projects lists and costs

Details about the update can be found on www.TheMPO.org/rtp



\$1,043,000 Small Business Administration (SBA) 504 Loan Approved for Hummingbird Wholesale

Hummingbird Wholesale was recently approved for a \$1,043,000 Small Business Administration (SBA) 504 loan. The loan was a joint effort of Pacific Continental Bank and Lane Council of Governments and will be used to finance a renovation and expansion of the former 24,000 square foot Down to Earth office and warehouse. New improvements consist of a 10,000 square foot 2nd floor addition with solar photovoltaic electric and solar thermal heating systems. The increased office space will enable the company to lease out some space to other complementary businesses.



Hummingbird will relocate just a few blocks away from its existing leased facilities on Lincoln Street. The new facility will allow the company to store more of the local farmers' beans, grains and seeds and possibly add some food processing. Hummingbird Wholesale's customers are located primarily along the I-5 corridor ranging from Seattle to San Francisco. The business is owned and operated by Julie and Charlie Tilt of Eugene.

The SBA 504 loan program is designed to assist existing and new businesses with attractive interest rates and loan terms for projects that might not otherwise qualify for conventional bank financing. One of the goals of the SBA program is to attract new jobs and investment into the community or to help save existing jobs. This project will create a total of at least 16 new jobs.

LCOG Grant Writing Supports City of Cottage Grove's Bohemia Park



Community-wide efforts continue in Cottage Grove toward the development of an amazing 14-plus acre park in the heart of the community. Bohemia Park will highlight the community's heritage in the areas of railroad, timber, mining, agriculture, and recreation, and provide a wide range of amenities for all ages. The project has generated widespread enthusiasm and participation, a tremendous level of local sweat equity, and the formation of the Bohemia Park Association (200-member strong volunteer organization).

The two main partners in the project are the City of Cottage Grove and the Bohemia Foundation. Stage III, the construction of the gathering space, is underway and includes a 2,000-seat amphitheater, covered picnic pavilion with restrooms, and adequate space for vendors and information/educational booths. LCOG is pleased to support the park's creation by providing grant writing services, including the city's recent \$250,000 award from the Ford Family Foundation, announced in July, that significantly supports Stage III.

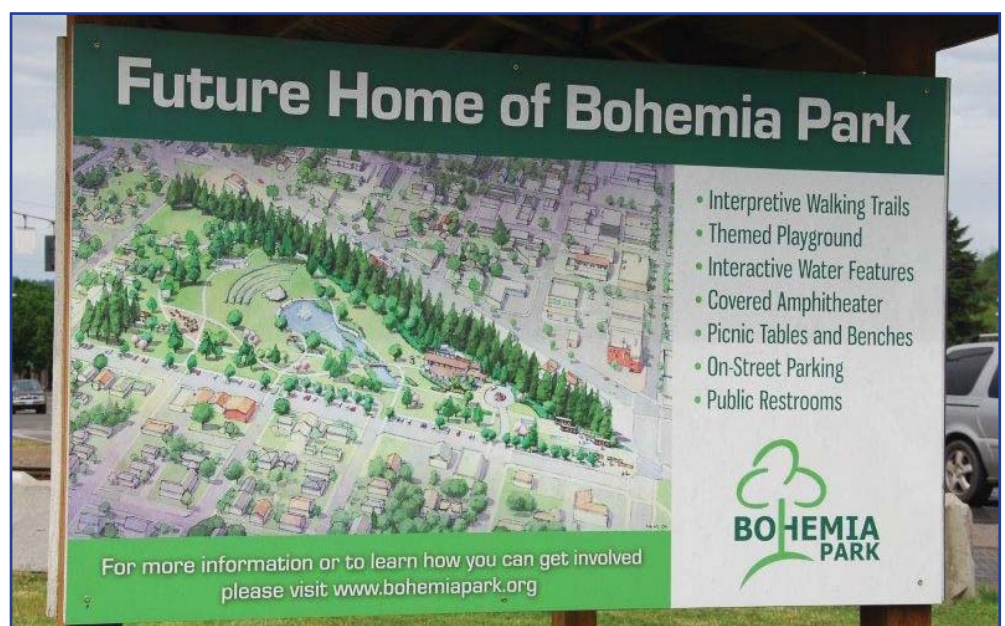
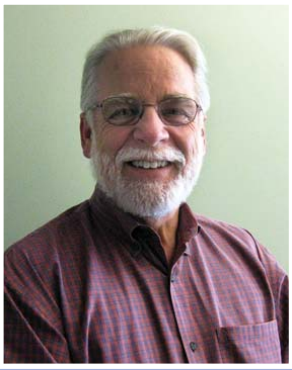


photo credit: Mary Ellen



Milo Mecham

PLANNING SERVICES PROGRAM MANAGER

Milo Mecham started at LCOG in January 1995 as a senior planner, doing primarily land use hearings. He became Planning Service Program Manager in 2008.

Milo has been involved in a number of projects over the years, ranging from helping Co-burg develop a wastewater system to supporting business development through the Regional Investment Board. Although he is an attorney, Milo spends most of his time on planning and project management activities. Milo has received several awards during his years at LCOG. He is proudest of the 2009 Outstanding Public Employee award he received from LCOG.

“The nice thing about working at LCOG is that it gives me so much variety of public service opportunities. While I spend the bulk of my time on a few projects, I value just as much the chance to help the Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue for a few minutes on an intergovernmental agreement, or consult with the League of Oregon Cities about telecommunications opportunities in Oregon.”

To contact Milo, call 541-682-4023, or e-mail mmecham@lcog.org.

\$8.3 Million Awarded to LCOG for Telecommunications Improvements

LCOG began construction on a telecommunications interconnection site in the basement of the LCOG building at 859 Willamette in Eugene. The interconnection site is a part of the \$8.3 Million awarded to LCOG for telecommunications improvements in Lane, Douglas and Klamath counties.



“The interconnection site will be the hub of better telecommunications services throughout the three-county area, and beyond,” said Milo Mecham, one of the project managers. “If we get the tenants that have expressed an interest in this space, we will have a facility that provides an opportunity for improved services and great access to the internet for all of this part of Oregon. Thanks to the Broadband Technology and Opportunities Program (BTOP) we are able to make available what the providers said they needed: a neutral site that gives everyone an opportunity to cross-connect at a reasonable cost.”

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“We plan on finishing construction of the building improvements in September and having the fiber optic connections in by the end of the year. Telecommunications has become one of the basic infrastructure requirements for businesses. We hope that this facility will spur job growth and business recruitment throughout the area served.”

The interconnection site is a part of a larger grant that will provide fiber optic connections for a number of “critical anchor institutions” in the three county area. The critical anchor institutions include medical clinics and fire stations, schools and government offices, libraries and community centers in Lane, Douglas and Klamath counties.

More information can be found at www.connectingoregon.org and the project wiki site <http://wiki.ruralfiber.net/bin/view/Main>.

Oregon Planning Institute 2011—Planning with Purpose—Coming Sept. 14-16



The OPI conference program for 2011 is filled with a number of exciting opportunities. Chief Judge David V. Brewer will deliver this year’s keynote address. Chief Judge Brewer has sat on the Oregon Court of Appeals since 1999 and has graciously agreed to share his insights and inspirations. The 2011 program presents a broad array of subjects and panelists. Panelists include Dr. Milica Bajic Brkovic from the University of Belgrade; Dr. Reid Ewing is a Research Professor at the National Center for Smart Growth, associate editor of the Journal of the American Planning Association, columnist for Planning magazine, and Fellow of the Urban Land Institute; Mr. Alexander Macgregor, Secretary General for the International Society of City and Regional Planners; Dr. John Renner of the University of New Orleans; and a host of leading hearts and minds in the planning profession. Conference sessions and workshops include: training on use of the latest Census data; history and hopes for planning in Oregon; sustainable transportation initiatives; siting of bioenergy facilities; agriculture in Oregon and much, much more.

The entire conference program can be found online at:
www.oregonplanninginstitute.com

How Can LCOG Help You?

For the past two years, the LCOG Board of Directors has been working on an agency Climate of Prosperity initiative, exploring how the Board can improve LCOG's role in the areas of Social Services, Economic Development, and Communications.

At the June meeting, the Board adopted a communications plan, drafted by the local communications firm Verb Marketing +PR. The goals of the Plan are to improve LCOG communications with member governments, Federal and State agencies, between governments and with the general public.

LCOG's Executive Committee and staff are now working on implementing the recommendations in the Communications Plan. Colene Doll, LCOG Creative Services Program Manager, will lead this project.

One of the next steps will be a significant outreach program to contact each member agency. This outreach effort will assist LCOG with a better understanding of member agency needs so those needs can be incorporated into the LCOG Plan.

Services Available to Our Members

(Please visit lcog.org for a complete list of services.)



The **REGIONAL FOCUS** is published by Lane Council of Governments on a quarterly basis. Back issues are also available in PDF format at www.lcog.org/rfnews.cfm

Send comments, requests, or email address changes to Sarah Finney at (541) 682-4072 or sfinney@lcog.org.

Editors:

Colene Doll
Sarah Finney
Theron Roe

Design/Layout:

Sarah Finney

Contributing Authors:

Megan Banks
Stacy Clauson
Steve Dignam
Colene Doll
Sandy Karsten
George Kloepfel

Patti Little
Milo Mecham
Christine Puetz
Becky Strickland
Denise Walters