

MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER



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Community Leaders Honored at Member Appreciation Dinner

The Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) held its Annual Member Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, March 4, at the historic Cottage Grove Armory. More than 130 elected and appointed officials, business and community members, and public employees from across Lane County attended the dinner, which also included a silent auction that raised more than \$3,500 for the LCOG Senior Meals Program.

Each year, LCOG celebrates regional accomplishments for the prior year and recognize Elected Officials, Public Employees, Citizens, Intergovernmental Teams, Economic Enhancement work, and those who have dedicated their lives to public service.

The annual award for Outstanding Elected Official was given to Lane County Commissioner Heather Buch who has done incredible work to aid the Holiday Farm Fire recovery effort. The Outstanding Citizen Award was presented to Ashley Espinoza, Lane Workforce Development's Interim Executive Director, for her passion and expertise in workforce and economic development, public & private sector collaboration, and community engagement. Mo Young was recognized as the Outstanding Public Employee for her exemplary performance and service. The award for Outstanding Public Career was presented to Joseph Leahy, retired lawyer who spent more than 50 years serving as legal council for local public agencies.

The award for Outstanding Intergovernmental Team was presented to Holiday Farm Fire Collaboration. Their work has brought in millions of dollars in state and federal aid to support the recovery of the McKenzie Valley. Matt McRae accepted the award on the group's behalf.

Also recognized were Cottage Grove Public Works Director Faye Stewart and City Planner Eric Morgan for the Cottage Grove Revitalization Project, which received the Outstanding Economic Enhancement Award. The project intends to create a more dynamic Main Street Historic District to boost local businesses, promote community engagement, and create a safe and beautiful experience for everyone in the City of Cottage Grove.

Tom Cotter of the City of Veneta was recognized for his longtime service to the LCOG Board of Directors.

Special recognition for Lifetime Public Service was given to Ray Smith, former mayor of the City of Coburg. Mr. Smith passed away in October 2022.



Cottage Grove Public Works Director, Faye Stewart, accepts the Outstanding Economic Enhancement Award for the Cottage Grove Revitalization Project.



Claire Smith and City of Coburg staff accepted the Lifetime Public Service Award given to Ray Smith, former mayor of the City of Coburg. (Photo courtesy of the City of Coburg.)

Thank You to Our Silent Auction Item Donors



Member Appreciation Dinner 2023

Thank You to our Silent Auction Donors!



Thank you to the local businesses and talented LCOG Senior & Disability Services staff who donated items for the LCOG Member Appreciation Dinner Silent Auction! Your generosity brought in \$3,292 for our Senior Meals Program!

The Senior Meals Program is a nutrition wellness program helping Lane County adults aged 60 and up to maintain their independence by providing healthy meals and opportunities to develop and maintain vital social connections. We operate eleven Cafe 60 Dining Rooms throughout Lane County and provide nutritious meals, friendly visits, regular safety and wellness checks, and a myriad of other community-based services to seniors in their home through the Meals on Wheels program.

If you or someone you know would benefit from the Senior Meals Program, please contact our Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) Specialists at 541-682-3353 or visit www.adrcoforegon.org.

Sign up to be a monthly donor! Visit <https://www.lcog.org/sds.../page/donate-senior-meals-program> and click on the yellow "Donate" button at the top of the page. When making a donation, select "make this a monthly donation."

Sponsor a Meal Campaign

During the month of February, we invited you to [make a tax-deductible contribution to our Sponsor a Meal campaign](#) to help ensure that nourishing meals can be served to our older neighbors who need them.

Gifts can also be made:

- For the current needs of the Senior Meals Program
- To the Senior Meals Program Endowment fund to supply future income
- By check or credit card
- By giving through a bequest, a will, an insurance policy, or stock transfer
- Monthly, by electronic funds transfer (EFT) from your credit card or checking account
- By adding Senior Meals Program to your monthly bill paying option at your bank or Internet bill paying service

You can also send a donation by mail to:
Senior Meals Program
859 Willamette St., Suite 500
Eugene, OR 97401

Gifts to the Senior Meals Program are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

For more information about giving to the the Senior Meals Program call 541-682-4378 or 541-682-4137.

CITY OF LOWELL OPENS MAGGIE OSGOOD LIBRARY



Maggie Osgood Library - Photo courtesy of Douglas Fast Net Facebook page.

On Saturday, February 25, the City of Lowell celebrated the opening of the new [Maggie Osgood Library](#) located at 70 N. Pioneer Street, Lowell, OR

The library is named in memory of Maggie Osgood, a long-time pillar of the community. From the early 2000s until her death in 2019, Osgood grew the city's library through donations and the efforts of volunteers. Osgood was also the city's volunteer librarian.

In 2019, a winter storm damaged the former City Hall. The storm left the library section of the building unusable. The city has been without a library since then.

The city purchased a former church after the winter storm to house the new library and City Hall offices. Since 2021, Eugene-based architect Curt Wilson has worked with the city to renovate the former church. The general contractor on the renovation project was Bridgeway Contracting, a Lowell company owned by resident Jerry Valencia. City Hall offices moved into the new building in November last year.

In 2022, the city hired its first paid Library Director, Peggy O'Kane. Since then, O'Kane and her team of 15 volunteers have been busy preparing the Maggie Osgood Library for opening day. "This has all been a marvelous adventure in serendipity," according to O'Kane. "Starting a library from scratch was one of the few things I had not done in my over 40 years in the library field."

The library has a collection of 10,000 titles. This includes a significant collection of manga and other graphic novels. The library's multi-purpose room will be available for classes, activities, and use free of charge for local groups and businesses. Other services that the library offers include free Wi-Fi, laptops available for checkout, and e-books available through the Oregon Digital Library Consortium. Residency within the city limits is not required to use the library.

Info courtesy of the City of Lowell.

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

- Now through March 19 - DisOrient Asian American Film Festival - Eugene ([link](#))
 - March 18 - Cottage Grove Carousel Monthly Open House ([link](#))
 - March 24 - Let's Roll Skate Party at Willamalane - Springfield ([link](#))
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FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

In addition to this newsletter, LCOG hosts pages on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn where members can track and find information about what's happening in the region. Scroll down and click on hit the buttons below the log, and be sure to like and follow LCOG's pages.



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