

The Chamber Connection: Your turn to advocate for yourself...

By T. Myers

During the next two months there are a series of meetings being held in La Pine that will directly impact our future. The Chamber acts as an advocate for businesses, economic development and community ventures. Sometimes, though, it is important to be an advocate for yourself and let the higher powers in the community know what you are thinking. These meetings being held here in town that will relate directly to your future. Come and Participate.

The Rural Development Initiative will host a meeting here to consider the results of the survey and topics for focus on the future. It is set at 4:30-7:30PM at the senior center on Tuesday the 4th of August. They will be trying to get volunteers and focused interest for doing the work that will take you forward when it comes to marketing La Pine and you will have an opportunity to give input for helping develop economic opportunities and visual interest in curb appeal and a real designation for a downtown.

The City is holding a joint meeting about sewers, septic and water at the La Pine Community Center. Call 541-1432 for info. There is a change to the water and sewer bill and they will talk about what kinds of septic products are available. With the measure about groundwater and septic on the horizon, this is a good one to learn about what is really happening. If you miss this, call for info at the City.

The Deschutes County Health Department is hosting a meeting at Midstate Electric to see what local residents have to say about needed services. 12-2 call 322-7632 for info Tuesday August 4th.

The Community Health Center is hosting its annual customer appreciation Day on August 5th at the clinic. They offer a tour of the facility, a chance to meet the new providers and then they cook up a great burger with all of the sides for your supper! Call 536-3435 for info. You will have an opportunity to talk directly with providers at the clinic that day. The event is in the parking lot in the afternoon.

If you have not gone to a public board meeting for a local organization you can always call the organization for information about meeting times and places. Most are open to the public and often, you will find out what they are trying to do to raise funds or activities that need your help. Your input could be valuable to any of these meetings.

The City has a work session and a public Council meeting. Both happen two weeks apart and give an opportunity for community input. You do not have to live in the city limits to be a contributor.

There are some big annual fundraisers coming up and being present at those would be a way to see what is needed in your community and a chance to be a part of changing this. The SCOOTR group is having a local summer poker run and camp-over at Rosland Park Campground this year. They will be raising money to help kids in South County. Tickets for camping, the poker run and bands at nights- will be available Friday through Sunday at the gate. \$20.00 per day. And, for the La Pine Park District the South County Boil at Caldera Springs is on August 22 at 5 PM. Tickets (\$75.00) at the LPRD counter or call 541-536-2223 for information.

If you are planning to present any ideas at public meetings it is important that you contact the agency in advance to get on the agenda and secure a time to speak. Meetings are usually planned out in advance based on the work that needs to be accomplished. Go online for information to see what is planned for upcoming meetings. Most of the organizations will welcome your input and you can advocate for specific things or changes in order to make a difference in the La Pine community. Call the Chamber for more info: 541-536-9771.