

The Chamber Connection: Community Relations are Part of the big Picture!

By T. Myers

Every Month, the Chamber is trying to cover the four aspects of the 20/20 Vision Strategic Plan by doing articles about the goals it has set. Community relations is part of that program, along with enhancing businesses, advocacy and events in the community. This week it is all about creating great working relationships with our incredible community partners!

La Pine is working very hard to determine its own destiny at this point. The RDI (Rural Development Initiative) folks are at the end of a community survey project that was the result of several community meetings that opened the door to what residents of the area were looking for in our community. They will be discussing the results of the initial survey in an upcoming August 4th meeting with representatives from nonprofits and other interested parties.

The COCC folks are trying to determine what local businesses need in terms of business related classes that will support the growth of local businesses. The small business rep, Steven Curley, will talk about the results of a joint survey that La Pine Park and Rec and COCC have been doing over the past five weeks at the Chamber Breakfast on July 17th. The breakfast itself is a collaboration between the Chamber and this month's breakfast host, LPRD. It is held in the big room at LPCC. (Normally it is held at the L P Senior Activity Center but for three times a year when we move the breakfast elsewhere to give members a chance to experience something different!—Community partners in action!). By having a different venue, July breakfast goes get a chance to see what is happening at the Park District and they can really stretch out to enjoy networking in a different place.

The Chamber works with many partners! The City, nonprofits and individual businesses are a few we regularly work with to promote the economic well-being of La Pine. And it does not stop there! Chamber board members are active in the community on other boards and the membership is involved at every level to work to promote La Pine throughout the year. The LED committee is the La Pine Economic Development committee. Rex Lesueur represents the Chamber on that committee. The Urban Renewal Committee is represented by the Chamber's Director, Ann Gawith. Chamber Board member Gary Gordon will be sworn in on Tuesday the 14th of July on the LPRD board of directors. Mark O'Connell, the Chamber President serves as the area coordinator for the American Red Cross. Mary Thorson serves the community on several different boards: The Community Kitchen, Park and Rec District bookkeeper, and she works with other nonprofits, Woody Jarrell serves on the Adult Education Committee for the area, Tiffany Zeiler is working to create an ATV event with Chamber for the fall Gun and Recreation Show in September, Jane Gillette works to coordinate events for her Church helping the community, Linda Stephenson teaches community classes about gardening for LPRD Adult Ed program and hosts the Annual Rhubarb Festival. Ann Gawith also works as President of Frontier Days and for SCOOTR as Treasurer.

It is all about being community partners who help each other. Do you want to be involved? The Chamber is looking for a few new volunteers to man the front desk in the Chamber office Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Call 541-536-9771 or stop in where Huntington meets HWY 97!