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# LA PINE CHAMBER CONNECTION

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*"We are the hub of the business community, promoting commerce and tourism making La Pine a vibrant community to work, live and play!"*

## La Pine Chamber of Commerce - Jayne Benner

**Email:** [jaynebenner@yahoo.com](mailto:jaynebenner@yahoo.com)

*Note: Jayne heads up the Economic Development and Tourism Committee for the Chamber of Commerce.*

**So, Jayne, how long have you been involved with the La Pine Chamber of Commerce and in what capacity?** "I came here to manage Community First Bank as the branch manager in December of 1999. By 2000 I was approached to be a Board Member for the Chamber and I started my real work then!"

**Are you and your husband involved with anything at the Chamber now?** "I am the chairman of the Economic Development, Tourism and Governmental Affairs Committee. It is the committee that works to represent the Chamber in the Community."

**Why do you work, live and play in La Pine?** "We bought the house to be a vacation spot and every time we came over, we didn't want to leave. I sent a resume to Community First Bank and was hired! One of the reasons I was hired was because I was active in the Salem Chamber and they wanted someone who would be an active part of the community."

**What have you learned from your experience with business and working for the community of La Pine?** "I learned that in our area, unlike Salem our state capital, our small town depends on the support of the residents to shop locally and volunteer to assist the many organizations and events that are so much the fabric of our little community."

**What are the challenges that we face here to promote Economic Development in La Pine?** "We need to attract new businesses to the business park. We also need to understand and modify the traffic that comes through our town. We are finally moving forward in a more positive direction to correct some of the issues we have had."

**Have you had some career or volunteer highlights you would like to share?** "In Salem, I chaired Oregon Ag-Fest for two years and it was to teach children and adults about how agriculture impacts their lives. I was also a member of the La Pine Political Action Committee to get incorporation on the ballot. We felt it was important to have the status of being a city so we could make plans for the future of the people who live here. It meant we could guide our own destiny."

**What do you do to relax?** "I enjoy sitting in the sunshine, reading books. I like the easy part of flower gardening. I am a classic home body!"

**Tell us something about yourself that few people know about:** "I have an identical twin sister who was just here to visit. We always have a great time doing small town stuff! (She is the big city girl!)"

**In terms of volunteering in the community, what are your personal contributions to the community?** "Besides being involved with the formation of the City of La Pine, I served on the old LCAT board for six years. I was an officer on the Chamber Board for six of the seven years I served. And, I started my acting career in the La Pine Players!"

**What are your plans for the future?** "I will live in La Pine forever!"

**What advice would you give to community leaders?** "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again! Don't give up!"

**Do you have a personal mission?** "This is the community we love. We need to give back and be an active part of it."



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