

# VILLAGES AT MT HOOD ANNUAL REPORT TO CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

We have come a long way since March 2, 2006 when the Board of Commissioners approved our application to become The Villages at Mt. Hood. We then met with you, had pictures taken and ate cake.

After almost a year of operation, we spent months revising our bylaws into a smaller and more concise document that will be easier to work with. The revised bylaws were approved by citizens at the August 18<sup>th</sup> Town Hall.

Our Board of Directors has changed over the past year. One director was voted out of office in the annual election and three directors chose to resign due to differing views on what direction the Villages should head. Now, at this point we have a solidified, united body of community friends working together!

We began with many supported activities and now have consolidated them into the most meaningful projects. We are always open to the wishes of the community and to what projects seem appropriate.

The Mt. Express Bus is becoming well known and is used by more than one thousand riders each month. Many of the riders are youths who use the bus as a way to participate in after-school activities and not have to have parents drive to Sandy to pick them up. A paper-recycling depot opened in Welches in October and has already been emptied multiple times. Usage has been much greater than anticipated. Fundraising is continuing for the planned and much anticipated Community Center. A proposal for a Community Garden in 2008 has been brought forward by a local gardening enthusiast.

The Board of The Villages and the Strategic Planning Organization have changed their meeting times to accommodate public requests and encourage their attendance and input. Therefore, we have found that our public attendance has increased greatly. We now routinely have 20-25 community members attending monthly meetings.

Work sessions have helped us solve problems. Taping sessions and using microphones has been tried. We are experimenting with pod casts. This allows

us to provide the public with audio access to meetings at any time convenient for them.

Town Hall Meetings were most productive when we divided the audience into community groups. Each group gave suggestions for their communities' future needs. It was interesting to see how many of the same issues came forward from all the groups. Every group mentioned infrastructure, water issues, traffic, streetscape enhancement, business and economic development and design review issues.

We have reviewed, with Lt. Chuck Slaney of the Sheriffs Department, how we could best help our area deal with drug and crime issues. Lt. Slaney offered assistance in organizing a Neighborhood Watch Program and we are assessing the level of interest in the community.

Currently, we are investigating water systems on the mountain and the companies that control them. Initially we have invited them, one at a time, to address the Board. Ultimately we plan a round table of the water boards where they can discuss their problems and take input from the community. This is a daunting effort since presently; we have over one hundred water groups, many very small. It is our aim to encourage consolidation where possible. We will continue to address future water needs for the growth of the community.

We, the members of the Board of Directors of The Villages at Mt. Hood, are a united group of citizens of this community working together to better our area and have our voices heard in the county. We appreciate your continuing support and cooperation and look forward to another successful year.

Nancy Dougherty, Chair