

2008 ANNUAL REPORT  
to  
CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
presented by  
  
THE VILLAGES AT MT HOOD  
May 13, 2009

On the third anniversary of its formation, the Villages at Mt Hood is pleased to present their second annual report to the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners. The Villages board has established eight standing committees, each with ongoing projects. The following committee summaries detail their projects and identify committee organizers and participants. Completed projects are detailed after the committee reports. Ongoing 2009 projects are also included.

### **Committee Reports**

- Signage Committee members participated in a series of Scenic Byways meetings to develop a program with consistent design and focus. The resulting materials provide guidelines for signage. The committee has begun the process of applying for grants and soliciting donations to fund signs identifying the entrance to the Villages at Mt Hood on Hwy 26. Each village will have their own sign so they are easily located by visitors. The signs will be consistent with all Scenic Byway signs in use in the Mt Hood area. All signs will use local stone, iron work and wood and be in a Cascadian style. *Nancy Dougherty*
- Safety Committee Members met with the Sheriff's Department several times and discussed increased patrols and forming a Neighborhood Watch Program. The Villages board sent a letter to Board of Commissioners and Sheriff's Department outlining speed, safety and patrol frequency issues on Hwy 26 and included possible methods for funding these recommendations. Two board members met with Commissioners Austin and Bernard to continue the safety letter discussion. *Robert Baker, Pat Buckley & Bob Reeves*
- Iwakt Community Garden Founded in 2008 and established in April 2009, this is the first community garden in the Villages at Mt Hood. The garden is sited near the Dorman Center on land donated by the Clackamas County Parks and Recreation Department. The land was cleared, fenced and tilled this winter and is ready for spring 2009 planting. Currently all

thirty plots are leased by area residents whose goal is to maintain an organic garden of vegetables, fruits and flowers that is free of pesticide use. Out of respect for the original gardeners of the northwest, the Yakima word "Iwakt" (dream) represents the dream of mountain residents to garden in sunshine. *Patricia Sharp*

- Recycling Beginning in 2007, a drop off point for paper, located in Welches, was placed in a centrally located parking lot. A second drop off point in Rhododendron was added in 2008 due to increased demand. The committee is considering adding other services as feasible. Profits from this project go to support the Hoodland Senior Center. *Judith Norval*
- Community Center The Community Center is a joint project in collaboration with Hoodland Women's Club and Hoodland Senior Center. It will house office space for multiple organizations and provide community meeting space. \$600,000 in funding committed so far. *Judith Norval, Shirley Dueber & Bob Reeves*
- Mountain Express Bus The Mountain Express is a rural transit system running Monday-Friday from Rhododendron to Sandy and making six roundtrips per day. This includes two trips per day to Estacada, connecting with Trimet into the metro area. System ridership has more than doubled in two years. Mountain Express serves a population of seniors, disabled, youth and people who have no other means of transportation. Youth riders make up 42% of the total, allowing them to participate in extracurricular activities without the need for a car to get home. The Mountain Express board is currently working with ODOT and ski areas on Mt Hood to add additional runs providing employee transportation to work. This frees space in crowded parking lots allowing parking for additional skiers. Clackamas County provides limited funds and is the fiscal agent for the Mt Express. *Bob Reeves, Shirley Dueber & Judith Norval*
- Library The Villages at Mt Hood held informational discussions for the community to educate them about the 2008 Library District levy and worked with Sandy Library to ensure continuing provision of quality library services to the Hoodland area. As the result of this cooperation, Sandy Library offered three seats on a newly revised library board to Villages at Mt Hood area citizens. The Villages at Mt Hood is also planning the formation of a Hoodland Friends of the Library to support library services. *Judith Norval, Shirley Dueber & Bob Reeves*
- Marketing The committee investigated participation in the Main Street Program and was accepted as an Exploring Downtown participant. The

Main Street project is being developed in cooperation with Mt Hood Chamber of Commerce. The Villages is the first non-city to participate in Main Street program in either Clackamas County or the state. *Robert Baker & Brigitte Romeo*

## **2008 Projects**

- Candidates' Forum In September and October 2008, the Villages at Mt Hood hosted two candidates' forums. The first presented library and school district bond measures and the second forum was for County Commission, Sheriff and Oregon State Representative candidates. All fourteen candidates accepted and nine were present to speak. Representatives of both the Clackamas County Library District and Oregon Trail School District spoke at the September Town Hall, while candidates spoke at the October Town Hall. *All board members*
- Water Study As water becomes a more prominent issue across Oregon, the Villages Board decided to dedicate a portion of three meetings to the subject of water provision in the Villages' area. Rhododendron Summer Home Association Water, Salmon River Water District and Welches Water Company all gave presentations on their water district or company. The aim of these discussions was to provide information to the community and begin the discussion about the possibility of a single joint administrative service for all three companies. This would allow for lower costs and greater efficiencies for all the water providers. Follow up discussion may be held at a later date or as the situation warrants. *Nancy Dougherty & Pat Buckley*
- In an effort to standardize operating procedures, the Board also adopted nine policy statements to establish operating procedures. They are the beginning of a series of process development and Board training exercises. *All board members*

## **Ongoing Projects for 2009**

- Establish Main Street Program in cooperation with Mt Hood Chamber of Commerce, Forest Service, other local businesses and landowners
- Increase outreach and communications to citizens and organizations within the community
- Continue work on ongoing committee projects
- Participate in board training workshops