Teamwork in Tight Times (T-3): “Working Together to Intervene In and Prosecute Financial Fraud”

On March 18 and 19, Senior & Disabled Services, a division of Lane Council of Governments, Oregon AARP, and Oregon Seniors and People with Disabilities co-sponsored a state-wide training on how to intervene and prosecute financial fraud - the fastest growing type of elder abuse. The 150 plus attendees were from a multitude of disciplines including: law enforcement agencies, adult protective services offices (Senior & Disabled Services, Mental Health, and Developmental Disabilities), district and private attorney offices, and victim advocate agencies. Keynote dinner speakers included Attorney General John Kroger and Senator Bill Morrisette.

For additional information on the event, please contact Patti Little, Contract Manager/Planner, Senior & Disabled Services, (541) 682-4137 or plittle@lcog.org.

Director’s Desk

COG Board Identifies Key Tools for Regional Improvement

What might the answer be if the question was: What can LCOg really do on the economic front? A consideration of that question was the nut of the LCOg Board of Directors’ work at its February Planning Session. Board members understood that the agency has a long history of providing technical assistance, information, planning, and “grantsmanship” services. But, in a recessionary economy with unemployment numbers rising and public revenue forecasts falling, what is this agency’s most effective role?

Over a period of several months, in anticipation of the Planning Session, a list of significant regional issues was considered by the Executive Committee. To lay the groundwork for a successful Session, the Committee discussed the importance of inadequately funded human services, failing public infrastructure, safety and security deficits and, of course, the sagging economy. It was agreed that the key question to be asked of elected policy makers was, “What can the LCOg Board do to improve the well being of the region?” With available time for the Session being short, it was clear that the Session’s design had to be very focused.

For the members of the Executive Committee and management staff, all of the suggested issue areas seemed important. But, as 2008 turned into 2009, it became clear that one issue stood above all others. The economy had driven all other topics into subordinate status. Interestingly, however, the Committee recognized that the deteriorating economy also profoundly impacted and made more severe the perils of all of the other public policy challenges on the list. Clearly, these are not stand-alone problems; they are interdependent and they are regional. It was understood that critical support for human services is constricted because of the reductions in tax revenue and philanthropy; that job losses and insecurity about the future were resulting in reduced spending, sagging real estate values and lower tax revenues; that the capacity to repair and replace aging public infrastructure is diminished due to revenue shortfalls; and that the public feels itself less safe because of increased criminal activity and budget cut-backs within the public safety system.

The recession and our economic circumstance remain top issues globally, and they certainly dominate much of the public discourse at the local and regional levels. At the direction of the Executive Committee, the economy became the policy focus of the LCOg Board’s Planning Session on February 12. To the key question of what the Board, itself, could do to enhance the well being of the region, five significant tools were identified. They are shared here because, in an elegantly simplistic way, they caption much of the work and purpose of this council of governments:

- Communication
- Coordination
- Advocacy
- Planning
- Convener

These are activities which, when implemented skillfully, can bring about an enhanced well being of the region and its citizens. LCOG has some experience and expertise in the use of each of these tools. Our commitment remains to help local governments and their elected and appointed leadership to address issues and challenges that cross jurisdictional lines. The five activities identified by the Board offer a good description of what the COG can bring to bear to regional issues, particularly in difficult economic times.
May is Older Americans Month – Honoring Older Americans “Capturing the Oregon Spirit”

Nationally designated as Older Americans Month, this May the Lane Coalition of Senior Programs honors eight inspiring Oregonians over 60 years of age who are active in our community and exemplify the “Oregon Spirit.” During this sesquicentennial year, these individuals exhibit vitality, mastery, wisdom and creative energy, while making valuable contributions to our community through their gifts of commitment to our state’s people, environment and culture.

These inspirational Older Americans will be recognized in a public reception at Willamalane Adult Activity Center in Springfield on Wednesday, May 6th from 4 - 5:30 p.m. During this event, the Lane Coalition of Senior Programs will unveil a specially-designed poster, “Lane County Honors Older Americans — Capturing the Oregon Spirit,” featuring a photo of each of the honorees. Videotaped interviews will also be featured during the festivities.

Senior Meals Program Receives Rotary Grant

The Senior Meals Program has recently received a grant of $4,000 from the Southtowne Rotary to help fund the replacement of the dishwasher in the Eugene Central Kitchen, which prepares more than 700 meals every weekday for the 12 Senior Meals Dining Rooms and 10 Meals on Wheels dispatch locations, including the Red Cross. The existing dishwasher is more than twenty years old and certain parts are no longer repairable. Commercial kitchen equipment is quite costly; it is estimated that the new dishwasher will cost in excess of $20,000 to replace.

Bateman Senior Meals, the food service provider contracted by the Food Service Consortium, operates Eugene Central Kitchen. LCOG leases the Eugene kitchen and its equipment to Bateman, but LCOG is responsible for equipment repair and replacement costs. Much of the kitchen equipment was installed in the early 1980s and is in need of replacement in the next few years. The Program is grateful to the Southtowne Rotary for this grant.

Senior Connections Leads in OPDP Enrollments

LCOG’s Senior Connections program has served as a model for the rest of the state in enrolling eligible participants in the Oregon Prescription Drug Program (OPDP). The OPDP, authorized by the Oregon Legislature in 2003, is a prescription drug purchasing pool created to help increase access to prescription drugs by the uninsured and underinsured.

Senior Connections has consistently led the state in Oregon Prescription Drug Program enrollments for 14 months. The original goal for outreach was to enroll 10 percent of Lane County’s eligible population in the discount RX program. That metric was achieved (and surpassed)—fully 29 percent of eligible people (16,406) are now enrolled in the program through Senior Connections.
Community Contributors Honored at LCOG Appreciation Dinner

More than a hundred elected and appointed officials and active citizens from across Lane County attended Lane Council of Governments’ 2008 Appreciation Dinner, marking the agency’s 63rd year of service. LCOG presented sisters Anne Ballew, Helen Wagner and Virginia Lauritsen with the Outstanding Elected Official award at the dinner, held on January 22 at LCC’s Center for Meeting and Learning. Also honored were Jim Carlson, retired Eugene Administrative services Director; former Cottage Grove Councilor Pat Patterson; and Life Technologies of Eugene.

In presenting former Assistant City Manager and Administrative Services Director, Jim Carlson, with LCOG’s Outstanding Public Employee Award, Eugene City Manager Jon Ruiz noted Carlson’s distinguished 35-year public service career at both LCOG and the City. He was praised for his leadership and his public policy and analytic skills.

Pat Patterson was given LCOG’s 2008 Outstanding Citizen Award by Cottage Grove City Manager Richard Meyers. Patterson was praised for his years of work on behalf of both the City and civic organizations in his community. Particularly noted were Patterson’s contributions to generations of Boy Scouts and students at Harrison Elementary School. Patterson’s “50 years of service” to Scouting included 20 years of hands-on leadership and support to Camp Melakwa and service as the Oregon Trail Council Lodge Advisor and Pacific Northwest Section Advisor for the Order of the Arrow. Patterson has served on the staff of four National Scout Jamborees.

Also a recipient of recognition at this year’s dinner was Life Technologies Company, formerly Invitrogen, which received the Regional Award of Merit for Economic Enhancement from Jack Roberts, Executive Director of Lane Metro Partnership. The award recognized the company’s contributions to the community and for being...
Project Homeless Connect

Senior & Disabled Services (S&DS) staff spoke with more than 52 people, and handed out information and brochures on S&DS programs and services. They enrolled seven people in the Oregon Prescription Drug Program (OPDP). One woman commented that her medication cost has been cut in half because of the OPDP card, so she can now purchase both food and her prescriptions.

Staff also gave away pocket planners, Senior Connections pens, toiletries, and dental care items.

More than a dozen wool scarves were hand knit and donated by Senior Connections staff, adding a “touch of home” on wintry days.

From COMMUNITY page 4

“an example of a successful, environmentally sensitive business.” Gordon Brown, Director of Operations at Life Technologies, accepted the award on behalf of the company, whose west Eugene facility employs approximately 300 persons.

The Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission, a thirty-year consortium of the Cities of Eugene and Springfield and Lane County, was honored as the year’s Outstanding Intergovernmental Team. The participating governments comprising MWMC were praised for a collaborative and highly coordinated approach to managing a vital public service. The award was presented by Al King, Springfield School Board member. He noted that this joint-venture was successful in containing costs and complying with state and federal clean water requirements. MWMC serves 220,000 residents in the metropolitan area and, last year, over 13 billion gallons of wastewater were treated. Lane County Commissioner Faye Stewart, the MWMC’s current chair, received the award on behalf of the three jurisdictions.

Eugene City Councilor Chris Pryor presented a special award to Oakridge City Administrator Gordon Zimmerman for his community’s success in building a “positive spirit and entrepreneurial climate.” The Award of Merit for Community Enterprise Facilitation recognized UPBEAT (Unique Program for Business Enhancement and Advancement Together) Oakridge for creating and sustaining local businesses in the Oakridge-Westfir area. Pryor noted that with coordinated county, state and federal support the three-year old program has yielded new businesses and has brought $2.5 million in new investments to the community. Through focused efforts UPBEAT is credited with saving 16 jobs and creating 43 more, Pryor said.

From STAFF page 4

Michelle currently serves on the board for the State of Oregon DUII Multi-Disciplinary Training Task Force. She is a former Family Resource Manager for the Department of Human Services Self Sufficiency Program in the Benton County area. Michelle has also worked for the Department of Justice and ACES Counseling Administration (now the Emergence Treatment Center) in Eugene. Michelle Apparcel can be reached at (541) 682-4584 or mapparcel@lcog.org.

From COMMUNITY page 4

Can now purchase both food and prescriptions.

Staff also gave away pocket planners, Senior Connections pens, toiletries, and dental care items.
Who Isn’t at Garden Lake Park?

In the last edition of RF readers learned about a great opportunity for the City of Creswell with the award of a Youth Legacy Grant from the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation for improvements to Garden Lake Park. Since then many people have been working hard on bringing community ideas to fruition.

In April the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve arrived to begin construction. Emerald People’s Utility District not only donated solar panels for the park, but EPUD employees volunteered to install them! The Coast Fork Watershed Council helped with park signage, coordinated resources and restoration, and oversaw the Earth Day boost for the park. Creswell High School Bulldogs came out to weed and seed in preparation for the July 4th grand opening of the new park resources. Everyone is invited!

The Ron Petitti Pavilion dedication and opening events will be from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at Garden Lake Park. Fireworks will follow with viewing at Creslane Elementary and Creswell High School. For more information on Creswell 4th of July events, please visit the Chamber of Commerce website: www.creswellchamber.com.

Growers in Three Counties Participate in Agricultural Chemical Clean Up

Lane Council of Governments coordinated a project with partner agencies to remove nearly 47,000 pounds of agricultural chemicals from Benton, Linn and Lane counties. Allied Waste in Corvallis and Lane County Hazardous Waste Facility in Eugene hosted a place for farmers to bring in their unused, unwanted, and unsafe chemicals.

Governor Kulongoski awarded LCOG a $50,000 Governors Grant for the Environment to protect Southern Willamette Valley surface water and groundwater from an accidental spill of unused or unusable pesticides. The DEQ, the cities of Corvallis and Albany, OSU Extension Service, and the Soil and Water Conservation District in Benton County contributed an additional $34,000 toward the project. This funding allowed for 90 farmers to participate in this program for the free, confidential disposal of over 23 tons of agricultural wastes.

“I personally know of at least 15 growers who participated in this year’s event, and they’ve told me it was a great experience and they’re happy to have had this opportunity to safely dispose of their waste pesticides,” said Bob Spiney of Crop Production Services. Marge Stevens, a Master Recycler, said she was “glad that those unusable chemicals have been removed from the watershed, and I am hopeful that environmental friendly farming techniques of the future will allow farmers to make a living while ensuring the ecosystem stays healthy.”
Eugene On-Street Parking Inventory Project Underway

Few issues come into play with municipal planning and economic development more than parking. Conversations about downtown development inevitably come around to whether or not sufficient parking exists; whether it is metered or not; restrictions on how long one can park at a given space; proximity to a given destination; costs, etc. A new multi-million dollar U of O basketball arena is under development. For some, the key question is whether or not the new facility will raise the Ducks’ basketball prospects, and for others in the surrounding neighborhood it is all about parking.

This past winter, the City of Eugene Parking Services Program embarked on a project with LCOG’s Applied GIS and Data Services group to inventory on-street parking in the downtown and UO campus parking districts. The project includes both mapping of curb-side parking along all public street block faces within the project area and verification of the city’s existing on-street metered parking spaces inventory.

The mapping work is being performed using a combination of recently acquired high resolution orthophotography and GPS field mapping. Precise locations of parking meters and signage are being captured as well as the full range of curbside features such as yellow curbs markings, driveways and bulb-outs. The resulting GIS data set can be combined with data the city has already gathered on parking structures and will support mapping of regulated parking as well as spatial analysis to support a wide range of “what-if” scenarios and planning for future parking needs.

The project, which will be completed in June, has afforded an excellent work opportunity for LCOG’s seasoned intern field data collection crew which recently completed a land use data field verification and mapping project for the City of Springfield. In turn, the cities are enjoying valuable data for their critical planning projects at a very reasonable cost. In an economy like the present, projects like these represent a win-win-win.

All collected chemicals were safely collected, processed, and properly disposed of by trained staff from Burlington Environmental. The final tally included many “acutely” toxic materials, such as the pesticides 2,4,5-T, DDT, pentachlorophenol and metam sodium. The majority of this waste was incinerated at a Hazardous Waste incinerator in Utah, except for two pesticides (2,4,5-T and pentachlorophenol) which were incinerated in Canada as there are no approved facilities in the States that can accept those materials.

For more information, please contact Denise Kalakay, Lane Council of Governments, (541) 682-7415 or dkalakay@lcog.org.
**RLID v2 News**

The new version of the Regional Land Information Database (RLID) website (http://v2.rlid.org) was released in February 2009. The site and applications have a new look and have all been rewritten to offer improved ease-of-use, performance, and functionality. The original RLID website continues to be supported while users are being migrated to the new site and trained to use the new features.

New features of the Property Search application are numerous. Users may now combine multiple search criteria to refine their property searches. Search results are more clearly displayed with the option to download the results page to a formatted PDF file. The summary and detailed reports have been redesigned and optimized for printing with new tools for locating desired content and choosing what information are displayed. A new interactive full screen map in the Detailed Property Report allows users to easily pan, zoom and view aerial photos of the subject property.

Plans call for the original website to be officially “retired” by early summer. “Completing this migration of our users to v2 is important,” stated Sherry Giglia, RLID’s User Support Specialist, “because it will allow the RLID Development Team to concentrate all of their efforts on enhancing the content of the new site and move forward with some of the exciting ‘wish list’ features that users have requested.”

One of the first new v2 development efforts will focus on more powerful search tools that allow users to find, report, and map multiple properties of interest using a combination of property characteristics and spatial selections accessing an interactive map and/or boundary data. The tools will expand the capabilities of the Property Search application and will provide for extracting data to a variety of output formats including mailing labels.

Please contact Sherry Giglia at 682-4495 or sgiglia@lcog.org if you’d like more information and check the RLID v2 home page for scheduled workshops and announcements of coming attractions.

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**Loan Program Update**

Kate Boney was able to expand her successful Turtles Restaurant in South Eugene with recent help from LCOG’s small business loan program. Turtles Bar and Grill was opened in 1999 by Kate Boney. It is a casual, neighborhood restaurant with a wide variety of American food. Kate saw an opportunity to expand and remodel in order to add a live music venue called “The Loft” with a piano bar and additional seating capacity. She came to LCOG in search of financing for her project. LCOG used the 504 loan program through the US Small Business Administration. This loan program...
LCOG Teams with LRAPA on “Everybody Wins” Diesel Emissions Reduction Project

Since 2004, the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) has been working with the U.S. EPA on a project designed to reduce diesel emissions from heavy-duty trucks that idle in our communities. The project helps fund the addition of auxiliary power units (APUs) on trucks in order to provide a source of power for driver comfort systems while allowing the main engine to be turned off instead of idling. These APUs save 90 percent of the fuel that idling consumes and produce significantly less emissions than the main engine would.

LRAPA partnered with LCOG’s Geographic Information Systems (GIS) group to provide analysis of how, when, and where these APUs were being used. The goal of the project was to collect and analyze data to determine how many hours the APUs were in use, where these units were turned on, and calculate fuel and emissions reductions arising from the use of APUs. To accomplish this, GPS tracking devices, linked to the APUs, were installed on a subset of trucks to track when and where the APUs were in use. The tracking device included cellular phone-based data uploading capability which allowed a view of the tracked trucks’ status in real time and download data for analysis remotely.

In 2007 and 2008, these GPS devices collected 775,485 APU idling log events. This translates to over 46,031 total hours of reduced main-engine idling for the 28 tracked trucks in the study. The following map shows where our test trucks used their APUs during the project.

Estimated annual fuel savings averaged 1040 gallons (or approximately $2,500 at current diesel prices) per truck. Estimated annual emissions reductions were approximately 14 tons per truck. LRAPA (and EPA) plan to use these quantified fuel savings and emissions reduction data to better communicate the positive benefits of APU technology with trucking companies.