



your **Lake**

Volume 1

WELCOME

Lane County welcomes you to the first *your Lake* community newsletter.

Each quarter, we will provide information and resources to help you access services provided by Your Lane (County Government)

Thank you for investing a few moments learning about the County.

Best, *your Lake* Team

Lane County Public Health wants you to know the new flu, Influenza A H1N1, is here in Lane County and the virus is already widespread.

H1N1: What You Can Do

Public Health needs your help to "Slow the Spread" of H1N1 flu in our community. It's important for all of us to keep practicing healthy habits.

- ▶ Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- ▶ Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- ▶ Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- ▶ Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- ▶ If you get sick, stay home and away from other people.
- ▶ Stay tuned for current H1N1 vaccine eligibility and opportunities.



H1N1 is a respiratory illness similar to the seasonal flu. Symptoms may include: fever (greater than 100°F or 37.8°C), sore throat, cough, stuffy nose, chills, headache and body aches, and fatigue. Some people have reported diarrhea and vomiting associated with this flu.

If you have a fever and any of the symptoms listed above, call your health care provider. Please do not go to the doctor's office, hospital emergency room, Public Health, or Urgent Care. Call first, tell the staff of your symptoms and concern about possible Swine Influenza A (H1N1). Your provider or the health care facility will ensure that you are evaluated in a way that limits your exposure to other people.

Preparing for H1N1

Resources to help you prepare for H1N1:

- www.lanecounty.org
- www.flu.oregon.gov
- www.cdc.gov
- www.preparelane.org

*Call 682-4181 for Seasonal Flu information!

THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. (MLK) CULINARY ARTS PROGRAM

was born from humble beginnings. The MLK Education Center had been in operation for many years.

Research indicates that a leading factor in reducing juvenile crime and increasing opportunities for youth to succeed is time spent with a positive adult. The MLK Culinary Arts program, part of the MLK Education Center, includes such positive time along with other support for at-risk youth. The program encourages positive youth development through culinary arts training and basic life skills development. Youth learn to interact with diverse community groups at catering events, and they have worked with Starbucks representatives to learn customer service. They also continue to learn and use the important math skills that inspired the program.

An exemplary Food & Nutrition Services staff - Donna Murphy (now retired), Jose Alvarez, Ned Hoerauf and Amy VanDyke - mentor youth and provide lessons for a lifetime by teaching culinary arts and important work ethics. This team goes beyond their job description and shows a commitment to our communities' youth each day.

"This is the first birthday cake I have ever had, let alone baked myself," Amanda shared with Lisa.

Then, in the fall of 2005, a seed was planted that would later develop into a new opportunity for youth to learn, grow and taste success.

Lane County Department of Youth Services Director Lisa Smith heard that one of the Center's students was struggling to understand fractions. Lisa felt the best way to understand fractions was with hands-on application, so she arranged time to teach Amanda how to bake a cake. As they read the recipe, followed directions and measured each ingredient, more than a cake was developing.

Amanda quickly understood fractions and tasted success in her finished cake. She completed her program with the MLK Education Center and secured employment with a local grocery store in the bakery department.

That hands-on teaching approach planted a seed that developed into the culinary program. The MLK Culinary Arts program has provided many youths the sweet taste of success.



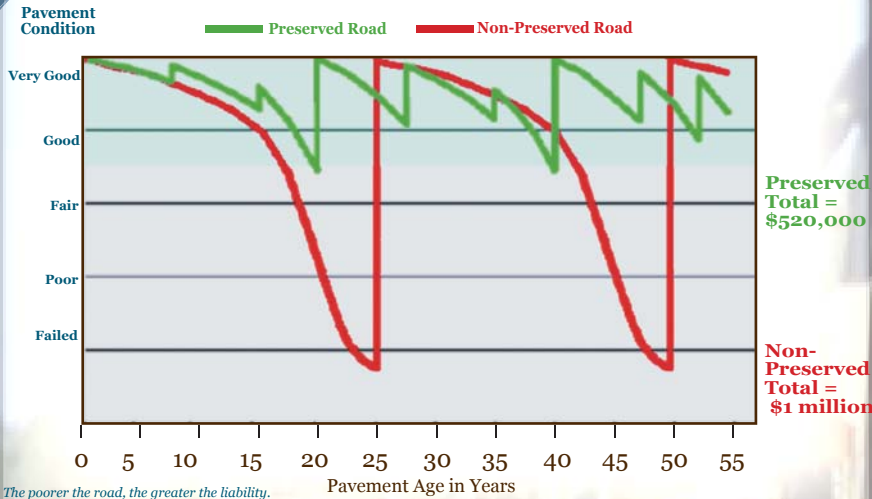
You can support the good work of the MLK Culinary Arts program and the Lane County Department of Youth Services by contacting Julianne Phillips at 682-2423 to arrange catering for your next event.

To learn about the Martin Luther King Jr. Education Center log on to: www.lanecounty.org/YS_MLKEC/default.htm

Why Fix a “Good Road”?

Preserved Road vs. Non-Preserved

Cost per Mile for 2 Lane Road Over 55-years (excluding inflation)



The poorer the road, the greater the liability.



“Bottom Line”?

Preserving roads is more cost effective than rebuilding.

One of the most common questions we receive this time of year is, “Why are we fixing a good road when there are so many others in worse shape?”

The bottom line is preserving a good road is more cost effective than replacing a badly deteriorated road. We have found that you can no longer repair the top layer of a road if you let it worsen to the point of visible signs of wear such as extensive cracking and potholes.

In other words, waiting for the visible signs of pavement wear caused by weather and traffic means we can only react to the damage by patching potholes until an expensive roadway reconstruction is necessary.

The graph above shows that Lane County’s road surface preservation methods save more than half the cost of totally replacing a road. This means we can maintain twice as many Lane County roads through proactive maintenance.

Drop-In Child Care at the Courthouse



*DROP-IN
CHILDCARE,
Public Service
Building,
Mon., Tues.,
Thurs.
8-11:30 a.m.
or by
appointment
at 343-9706.*

Have you heard? Many community members may not have heard that Lane County has been offering drop-in child care for over a year for families visiting the Courthouse and Public Services Building in downtown Eugene.

Next time you find yourself in the Public Services Building on Oak and 8th Avenue, head down to the basement and look for the warm, inviting glow of the child care room to the left of Café Today. The Relief Nursery staffs the room. A collaboration of community agencies led by the Department of Children and Families helped establish, refurbish and furnish the location. Key County contributors were the District Attorney's office and Management Services.

An added bonus of having highly skilled therapeutic Relief Nursery staff providing these services is that information about and connection to all Relief Nursery programs is available on site if needed.

Community members, including judges, law enforcement officers, attorneys, court staff and social workers, recognized the need for a safe and appropriate environment for children during the time their parents/guardians are engaged with court proceedings and other business matters at the County. An appropriate child care setting protects children and eliminates behavior that might disrupt business and legal proceedings.

In 2008, after a year long planning process, the Commission on Children and Families, along with the Department of Children and Families and the Board of County Commissioners, adopted "Increase quality child care for 0-3 year olds," as one of its top three focus areas for Lane County during the following seven years.

This focus was reaffirmed when a community survey commissioned by Lane County in 2009 found that only 25 percent of respondents rated the availability of affordable quality child care as good or excellent – below national benchmarks and benchmarks for other communities with populations of 200,000 or more.

This service for infants through school age kids provides a safe, warm, fun location for children to stay in while their parents are taking care of business. Parents have the freedom to do what they need to do without worrying about their children. It also allows business, including court appearances, to be conducted in a more calm and less disrupted way than is typically possible with children.

For the first time, Lane County is offering its own courses through “County College”.

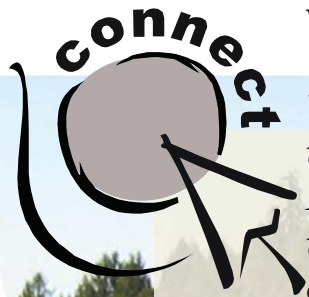
County College is a highly interactive program where community members learn about County services, tour County facilities, and connect with employees. A total of 30 community members were accepted into the first County College, which is free to any Lane County resident.

Lane County College: School Is In!

“Many residents may not realize that their County government is actually their most accessible government.”

“We want to open the doors and show residents what services we provide and how those services are relevant in their daily lives,” said Christine Moody, a Senior Management Analyst in the Budget Office and County College Coordinator. “In the process, we hope to foster a better connection with those we serve. Many residents may not realize that County government is actually their most accessible government.”

Staff organizers for the College note the County’s commitment to engaging the community in their County government has been the focus of the planning efforts. The goal is to provide county residents with an in-depth way to connect with the people and services of Lane County. The hope is this is just the first year of what will become an annual program.



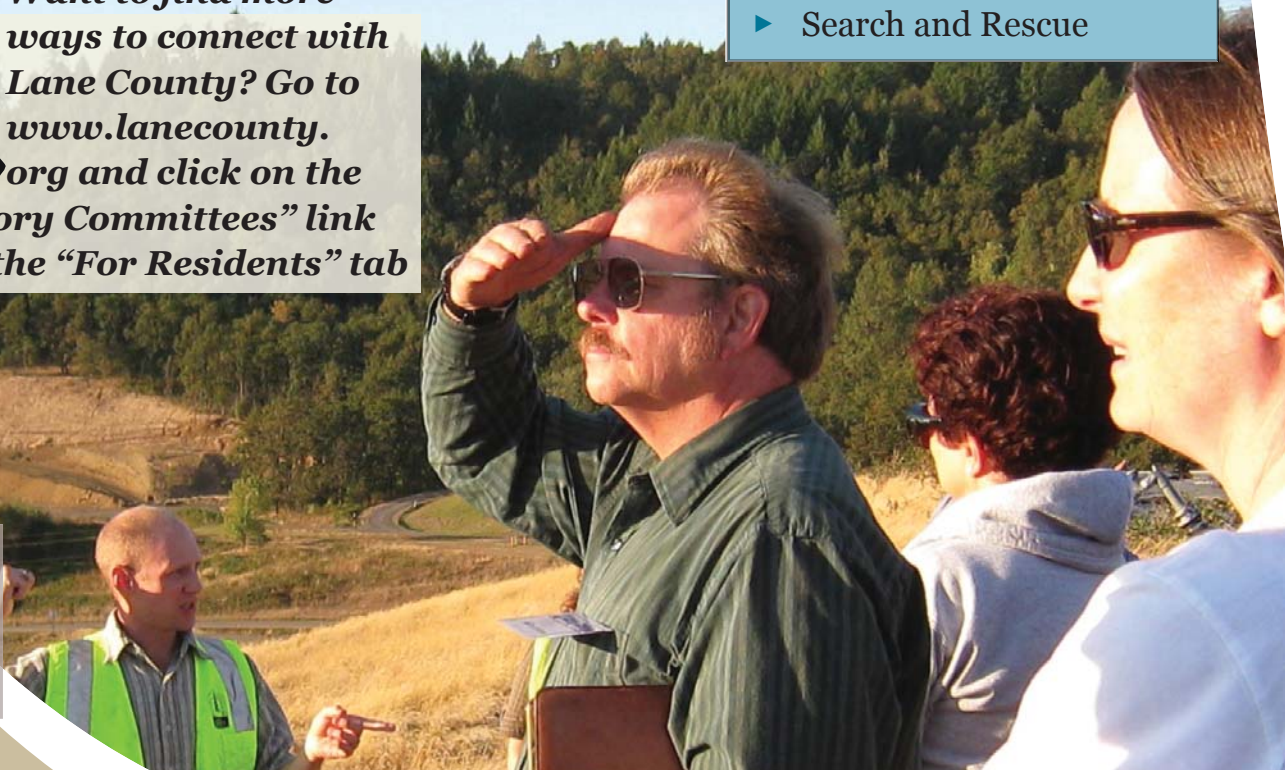
Want to find more ways to connect with Lane County? Go to www.lanecounty.org and click on the “Advisory Committees” link under the “For Residents” tab

County College

(from 6-9 p.m., Thursdays, September 17 through November 19) cover topics including:

- ▶ Property taxes
- ▶ Lane County’s budget
- ▶ Increasing community safety through crime-free youth
- ▶ Emergency management
- ▶ Public safety
- ▶ Services to children, youth and families
- ▶ Public health
- ▶ Animal services
- ▶ Road maintenance
- ▶ Behavioral health
- ▶ Waste and recycling
- ▶ Community involvement
- ▶ Land Management
- ▶ Deeds & Records
- ▶ Elections
- ▶ Parks, and
- ▶ Search and Rescue

**Interested in volunteering?
Call 682-4203
to learn more!**



Connecting with our Communities

In the summer of 2008, Board members ranked the following among their top goals:

- ▶ Building public trust through intensive communication and engagement; and
- ▶ Providing outstanding customer/constituent service

Backing words with action, the Board has taken strides to bring local government to the community and the community to their County government. Several notable projects include:

- ▶ The **Working for You video series** which provides a new way to share County stories and services with the community through Metro Television Channel 21 and at www.lanecounty.org (click on “videos”).
- ▶ Using technology again, the **County’s website** has been improved and is becoming “service-centric” to provide those we serve with greater and easier access to the services and information they need. Redesign work continues on the website.
- ▶ The Board has established the “**One-Pager**” where community members are welcome to bring “one-pager” reports to the Board for a direct dialogue with their Commissioners.
- ▶ This fall kicked off the start of **County College** as yet another way for the community to connect with County employees and learn more about what they do each day in our communities.

Whether it’s out learning

more about community partners, hearing new ideas directly from local residents, or working to improve how we serve, Lane County Commissioners have made community participation and engagement a top priority.

Interested in speaking with your Board? Go to the County website and under the “Your Government” tab click on “Speak to Your Commissioners”

Commissioners have also stepped up outreach efforts by hosting nearly weekly evening Board meetings with local agencies including United Way, 100% Access, and Centro Latino among others.

“We believe that in order to have a government that serves local communities well, we have to ensure they have access to their County officials and that there are multiple avenues for people to participate,” said Board Chair Pete Sorenson. “We’ll keep building those avenues, and we hope to see more community members get involved.”



Your Commissioners: Bill Dwyer, Bill Fleenor, Rob Handy, Faye Stewart, and Pete Sorenson

Lane County Property Taxes

AN OVERVIEW

Oregon has a complicated property tax system and at Assessment and Taxation, we try to provide straightforward answers to all of your questions. We provide an annual insert with your tax statement to provide current information affecting taxes; we provide the media with current year tax data; we continually update and add helpful information to our website (www.lanecounty.org/at), and we have a dedicated staff that answers hundreds of inquiries per day.

Want to know more?

Our public information phone line is open daily, 10 a.m. - noon and 1 - 4 p.m. Monday-Friday
Call (541) 682-4321

...did you know?

Oregon has two tax limitations that affect the amount of local property tax that is billed each year? One limits the property value that is subject to tax (Measure 50). The other caps the amount of tax billed to each property for education and government services (Measure 5). Together these limitations create a property tax system that protects taxpayers from large swings in the real estate market.

If you believe your property's market value was different on January 1, you have the right to appeal to the Board of Property Tax Appeals through the County Clerk's office. The deadline to file appeals is December 31. The Board has the authority to reduce market value when sufficient evidence is provided, but a reduction to your value does not always reduce your tax payment. If your market value is still higher than your assessed value, your tax payment will likely remain the same. The Board cannot grant reductions to your tax amount, they can only review your property's value.

For 2009:

Tax Statements are mailed October 23.

Payments are due on November 16.

- ▶ The tax statement shows the real market value of your property as of January 1 based on the prior year's real estate market.
- ▶ Any changes to the market since January 2009 will be reflected on the 2010 tax statement.
- ▶ The tax statement shows your property's taxable value which is the Measure 50 assessed value minus any exemptions.
- ▶ On average, residential properties pay tax on an assessed value that is 65 percent of its market value.
- ▶ With house prices dropping, taxpayers might believe they will see a corresponding reduction in their property taxes this year. This is unlikely as the downturn has not dropped market values below Measure 50 assessed values.
- ▶ Oregon does not reassess property values or recalculate tax at time of sale or refinance.
- ▶ Property values are as of January 1 and tax amounts are set once a year in October.
- ▶ Oregon's Constitution ensures that you pay no more than \$10 per \$1,000 of market value for general government services and no more than \$5 per \$1,000 of market value for education services. Bonds are exempt from this limit.
- ▶ Each local government has a permanent tax rate that cannot be increased. Voters can approve additional "local option" levies and bonds

Community Health Centers

The Community Health Centers of Lane County (CHC) serve some of the counties most vulnerable community members, many of whom are uninsured or underinsured.

But the demand for services is much greater.

EXPANDING TO SERVE

Because the current level of services do not meet demand, the CHC is preparing to expand services to an additional 12,000 Lane County community members over the next two years. This is possible after CHC received two American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grants, totaling nearly \$1 million. This funding will allow the CHC to open the new Charnelton Community Clinic in downtown Eugene in February 2010. A third ARRA grant, if awarded, will provide funding to renovate the new Riverstone Community Clinic in Springfield. With these two new facilities, the CHC will add 10 medical providers, three mental health professionals, and 27 support staff.

Currently, the Community Health Centers provide services to **13,000 patients** annually with over **45,000 visits**.

Scheduled to open in early February 2010, the Charnelton Community Clinic will be located at Seventh and Charnelton in downtown Eugene. Funding for the renovation of the clinic space has been secured through the America Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The new facility will be home to seven providers, a large waiting area, 13 exam rooms, a procedure room, and a nurse's station. The building will house many other Lane County Health and Human Services programs including Women, Infants, and Children, Public Health, and the Human Services Commission.

Charnelton Community Clinic



and the Human Services Commission.

Riverstone Clinic

Planning for the new Riverstone Clinic is underway and the clinic is scheduled to open in mid-summer 2010 at 2073 Olympic Street, Springfield. The first floor of the building will have central reception, laboratory, family planning, and a pediatric clinic with 9 exam rooms. The second floor will be dedicated to primary care with a small receiving area and 16 exam rooms. The third floor will house billing, administration, finance, and three mental health professionals. Lane County has submitted a third round of ARRA grant applications to fund these renovations. Keep your fingers crossed as this is a competitive grant.



More than Energy Assistance

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION (HSC)

Betty and Gene, an elderly couple, live in an older mobile home in Junction City. They've struggled to stretch their fixed income to cover basic expenses of utilities, shelter, food, and medications. Betty, bedridden, is being taken care of by her husband, with some difficulty.

A federal Low Income Energy Assistance Program energy assistance payment helped, but they had other issues beyond their utility bill expenses. So Lorraine Boose, an Energy Advocate for Lane County did a home visit, and enrolled Betty and Gene in an energy education program funded by their local utility company.

With Lorraine's assistance, they lowered the temperature of their water heater, replaced their older lighting with energy efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs, and installed other energy saving devices throughout the mobile home. She referred Betty and Gene to the weatherization program operated by Housing and Community Services of Lane County, which audited their home and promptly repaired the furnace, sealed leaky duct work, installed under-floor insulation and insulated windows. This drastically decreased their utility bills so that their winter energy costs became more manageable. Lorraine also accessed other resources through Senior Services, including a repair of dry rot and a water heater replacement so that Betty could bathe safely and care for her personal needs. The energy education program replaced their broken refrigerator with a new energy efficient appliance, further stabilizing the couple so that they could enjoy the independence of remaining in their own home.

*Betty and Gene received help through energy programs run by **HSC of Lane County**, which manages 12 programs ranging from energy assistance to energy conservation to case management.*



For more information about Energy Assistance Programs in Lane County, contact Mary Ellen Bennett at 682-7473 or call the HSC energy line at 682-3378.

The HSC has **5 Energy Assistance** programs which provide payments into qualifying households' utility accounts, and helps manage the federal Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) program and utility-funded programs.

The HSC has **5 Energy Education** programs to help participants lower energy consumption and manage utility bills.

The HSC offers **Case Management** to vulnerable, high-risk households that are committed to making changes in their lives. A case manager helps participants access community resources and problem solve in areas including housing, medical/prescription needs, transportation, employment, budgeting and other potential barriers to self-sufficiency.

The HSC administers the Lane County **Weatherization** program, which is managed by Housing and Community Services of Lane County (HACSA). The weatherization program assesses a home's weatherization needs and determines the most cost effective weatherization improvements to make. Local contractors then install insulation, windows, seal leaky ducting, repair or replace furnaces, and address health and safety needs.

Q & A

Who may register to vote?

A Resident of Oregon: A person who lives in Oregon with the intention of making Oregon their home. (A person who has come to Oregon for temporary purposes and intends to return to another state is not considered a resident for voting purposes. If you are uncertain about residency, contact your County elections office.)

A United States citizen: If a person is not yet a United States citizen but will be sworn in as a U.S. citizen residing in Oregon during the 20-day period immediately before Election Day, the person may register to vote. However, the person must contact their county elections office to obtain the procedures pertaining to this type of situation. If a person is not a U.S. citizen, there is no opportunity to register.

A person 17 years of age or older. Any 17 year old can register any time, but not later than the 21st day prior to the election. They will be mailed a ballot on the first qualifying election when turning 18 years old.

When may I register?

You may register at any time.

However, your voter registration card must be postmarked no later than the 21st day before the election at which you intend to vote. (This includes someone who will turn 18 after the 21st day and by election day. They must register by the 21st day prior to the election in order to vote in that election.)

How may I register?

By mail-in registration form; or in person at your County elections office or at a designated state agency, including the Department of Motor Vehicles and some public assistance agencies.



Not sure if you're registered to vote? Find out at www.co.lane.or.us/elections and click on "Am I Registered to Vote?"

Can I register online?

Not yet, but soon! March 2010, any qualified person who has a valid Oregon driver license, driver permit, or State identification card will be able to register for the first time or to update their registration address online.

Am I currently registered to vote?

You can check your registration online. Visit www.co.lane.or.us/elections. See the link to the right under Elections Information for "Am I Registered to Vote?"

Be sure to enter the required information marked with an asterisk. If your registration is not found, or you have moved since the last election, complete a new registration card. You can download a registration card from the following website: www.lanecounty.org/elections/voterregform.htm

Do I have to re-register for each election?

No. You only need to update your registration information when your personal information changes such as a change in your mailing address or you wish to change your party affiliation.

What information is required to register?

Oregon laws require that you furnish your full name, residence address, date of birth, and signature. You also need to provide your political party preference.

Federal Law Requirements:

- ▶ You must indicate whether you are a citizen of the United States of America and meet the requirements of being at least 18 years old by election day.
- ▶ You must provide identifying information to register to vote for the first time.

Important: Failure to provide the required ID will prevent County election officials from counting Federal Contests at a Primary and General Election, including President of the United States.

Do I have to register to a political party?

No. If you do not want to be affiliated with a political party, you may check the box that states "Not a member of a party". In Oregon there is an Independent Party, which is not the same as a "not-affiliated" voter, so do not write Independent unless you associate yourself with the Independent Party.

You cannot designate or change a party affiliation after the 21st day before the primary election. (Postmarks do not qualify.)

The political party registration can impact qualifications to partisan offices. The election that political party registration can make a difference to what contests a voter qualifies to vote on is the Primary Election.

PRESERVING HISTORY THROUGH COLLECTIBLE COINS

COINS HAVE DIVERSE APPEAL

The purchase of a silver coin can be:

- ▶ A gift;
- ▶ A collectable for the many bridge enthusiasts and coin collectors;
- ▶ A tribute to our local covered bridge heritage; or
- ▶ A token for those with memories associated with a specific bridge in the community.

Each purchase helps preserve bridges that no longer have traditional funding and helps to ensure they will be here for years to come.

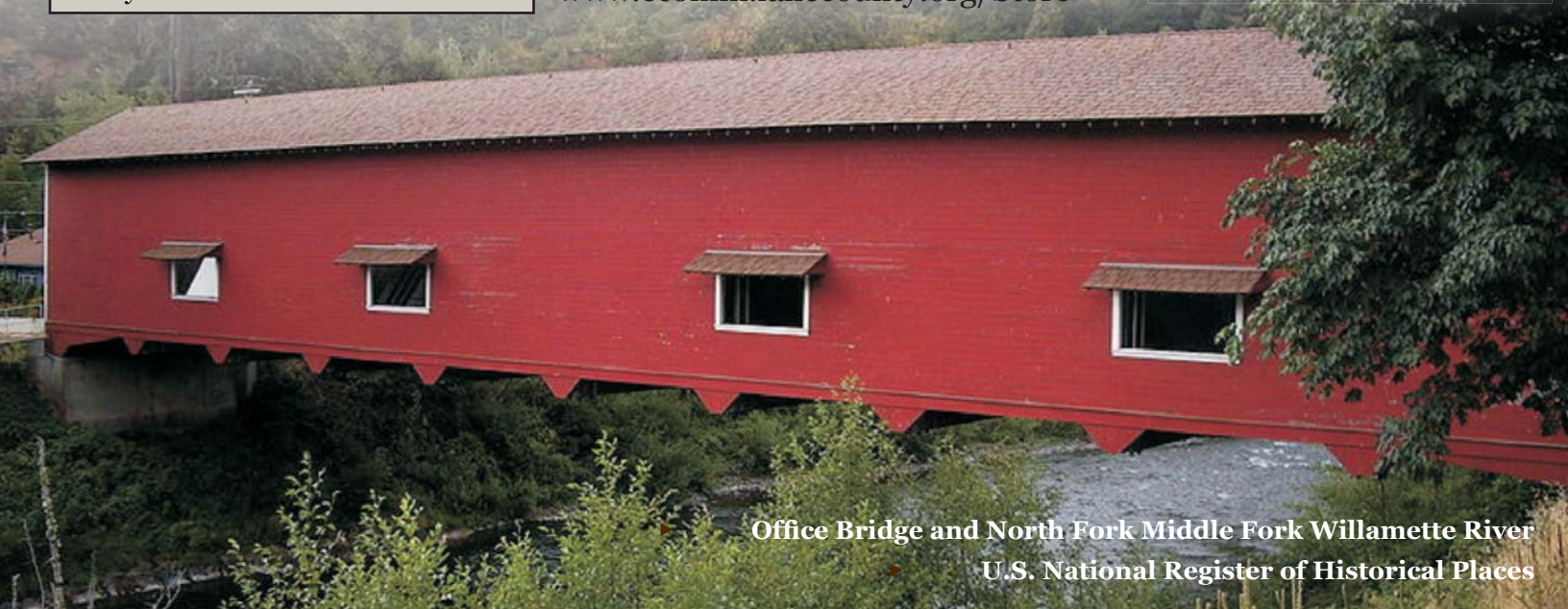
Three of the 17 historical covered bridges Lane County owns are closed to drivers and, therefore, not eligible to be maintained through traditional Road Fund dollars. In 2005, Lane County created a commemorative silver coin series of the 17 bridges (each coin is .999 oz. fine silver) as a fundraiser to help with the cost of preserving these three covered bridges. Preservation includes: painting for protection against weathering, roof repair, fumigation (keeping insect damage to a minimum), and floor deck repair as needed.

HOW TO GET YOUR COINS

Limited coins are produced of each bridge design with 400-500 being an average production number. Additionally, the first 25 coins in each series are number-stamped from 1-25. New coin releases and auctions will continue to take place twice a year at local community events through 2013. The numbered coins are available at coin-release auctions only. Unnumbered coin pricing is influenced by the market rate of silver at the time of production (the most recent coin held a \$35 value) and are available until sold out.

Coins may be purchased in person at the Public Works Office on N. Delta Highway or online (with an additional \$4 to cover shipping/handling). Want more info? Visit us at www.ecomm.lanecounty.org/Store

Lane County is home to the *most covered bridges* west of the Mississippi River



Office Bridge and North Fork Middle Fork Willamette River
U.S. National Register of Historical Places