

REGIONAL FOCUS

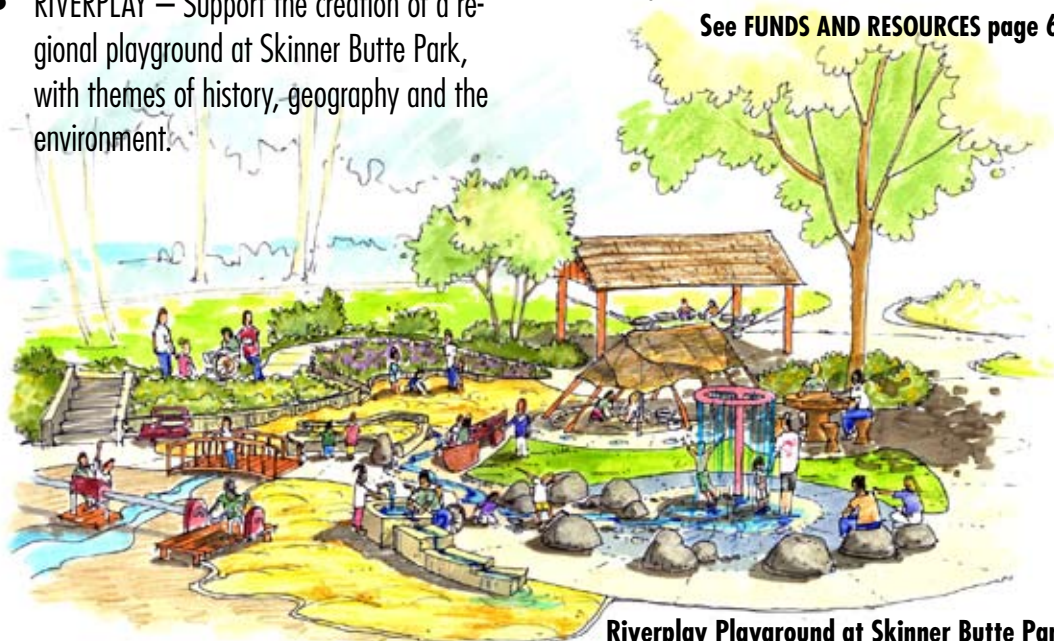
Funds and Resources for Member Agencies and Community Partners

Since the fall of 2004, LCOG's Resource Development and Evaluation team has assisted member agencies and community partners in obtaining nearly \$6 million in government and private foundation grant funds that will help sustain and improve the quality of life throughout Lane County. Projects include:

- **LANE EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT PROJECT** — Make systemic changes to identify and provide behavioral health service access for young children and their families in South Lane County.
- **RIVERPLAY** — Support the creation of a regional playground at Skinner Butte Park, with themes of history, geography and the environment.

- **FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS TOGETHER** — Provide support to improve family function and academic performance of children, and prevent high risk youth behavior in Fern Ridge, McKenzie, Oakridge, South Lane, and Springfield School Districts.
- **PROJECT CAREER FOCUS** — Utilize relationships among the ESD, LCC, area high schools, and business to develop components for the Oregon Skill Set Clusters and Career Focus Areas, helping students move seamlessly from high school to post-secondary education.

See **FUNDS AND RESOURCES** page 6



Riverplay Playground at Skinner Butte Park

Illustration: City of Eugene Parks and Open Space Division

THIS ISSUE

- 2 Director's Desk
- 3 Senior & Disabled Services
Provides Assistance for Medicare Part D
- 4 May is Older Americans Month
Two Meals on Wheels Benefits Scheduled
- 5 Senior & Disabled Services Provides Choice Counseling to Over 6,000 Eligible Clients
LCOG Approved for \$500,000 Loan from USDA
- 6 Staff Profile
- 7 Creswell Parks and Open Space Master Plan
- 8 LCOG Budget Revision Approved
EWEB Contracts with LCOG to Build Web Application
- 9 Regional Trends: Data for Sound Decision Making in Lane County
- 10 LCOG's Creative Services Provides Design Excellence
- 11 Eugene-Springfield Students Ride LTD for Free
- 12 Calendar

DIRECTOR'S DESK



Connecting Seniors and Caregivers with Essential Services

Time flies! Within recent months, both the LCOG organization and its Executive Director celebrated sixtieth birthdays. In fairness, the agency is three months older than I (and thanks for noticing). Yet here I am, eligible for at least some of the help provided by our Senior & Disabled Services Division. Imagine that!

An important component of the division's work is Senior Connections. We have described the task of this program as "connecting seniors and family caregivers with essential services." Such a mission statement may seem straightforward and even easy to achieve. But make no mistake. What the small staff of the Senior Connections program accomplishes, operating from seven locations throughout Lane County, is important and, in some cases vital, to the citizens of our region. I suspect that the program is as valuable to the families and loved ones of seniors as it is to the senior clients themselves. But in any case, the beneficiaries are many. As with other readers of this newsletter, I can say, "been there, done that," when it comes to negotiating the twists and turns of the system for an elderly parent. The pursuit of answers is daunting; and the kind of help provided by Senior Connections is often the key to a successful outcome.

Providing information, referral services, case management and caregiver support, Senior Connections utilizes resources from the federal Older

By the way, did you know that there are more than 62,000 people in Lane County over the age of 60? One of every six Americans is 60+ today. By the year 2030, the ratio will be one in four. Think about it.

Americans Act, the Low Income Energy Assistance Program, Lane County's Human Services Program and United Way of Lane County. For many of the functions of this program, volunteers are essential. Senior Connections staff recruit, train, place and support volunteers who provide a variety of in-home services. As with other work of our Senior and Disabled Services Division, government financial support does not completely do the job. Consequently, the community's support is needed. We deeply appreciate the contributions to Senior Connections from foundations, private businesses and individuals. Regional Focus readers who would like to help financially support or to volunteer for this program are urged to contact Joan Taylor, Senior Connections Supervisor, at (541) 682-4374.

MEMBER GOVERNMENTS

- Lane County
- City of Eugene
- City of Springfield
- City of Cottage Grove
- City of Florence
- City of Junction City
- City of Oakridge
- City of Veneta
- City of Creswell
- City of Dunes City
- City of Lowell
- City of Coburg
- City of Westfir
- School District 4J
- School District 19
- School District 52
- School District 68
- Lane Community College
- Eugene Water & Electric Board
- Emerald People's Utility District
- Port of Siuslaw
- Lane Education Service District
- Western Lane Ambulance District
- Willamalane Park & Recreation District
- Fern Ridge Library District
- Lane Library District
- Siuslaw Public Library District



Senior & Disabled Services Provides Assistance for Medicare Part D

Medicare's new prescription drug benefit (Medicare Part D) took effect January 1, 2006. Reaching the 50,000 plus Lane County Medicare eligible citizens was a daunting challenge for community agencies who serves seniors and persons with disabilities. Collaboration and cooperation became the motto of the Medicare Part D Community Steering Committee. The committee is comprised of local and state agencies, private business owners, nonprofit organizations and volunteers.

Senior & Disabled Services organized and facilitated the monthly steering committee meetings. Senior Connections hired Brent Wood as the Medicare Part D Outreach Coordinator. Brent provided comprehensive Medicare Part D choice counseling information and education through presentations, written materials, media coverage, and word of mouth. In his presentations alone, he reached 1984 individuals.

Senior Connections worked with United Way of Lane County to train and house an 11 member team of AmeriCorp* National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) volunteers. The 11 member team provided a special opportunity for 194 seniors in rural Lane County to get Medicare Part D enrollment assistance. Lane Community College hosted the enrollment sessions at LCC Community Learning Centers in Florence, Cottage Grove, Junction City, and Elmira. This was the only AmeriCorp*NCCC Team in the country to work on Medicare Part D enrollment.



Lane Community College hosted the enrollment sessions at LCC Community Learning Centers in Florence, Cottage Grove, Junction City, and Elmira.

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May is Older Americans Month

May is designated nationally as Older Americans Month to celebrate the diversity of older people who live long, healthy and productive lives. Older Americans will account for an increasingly significant portion of the population in years to come and are living well as they age by following basic principles: maintaining healthy diets, exercising, and staying actively involved.

The Lane County Coalition of Senior Programs has selected nine inspirational people, over age 60, who continue to pursue very active lifestyles through their retirement years and exemplify this year's theme, *In Motion After 60*. They show that you can get in shape at any age and you can stay in shape all your life!



Lane County's Celebrated Older Americans are: Beth Ferris, 92, Eugene; Marv & Mary Krenk, 89 and 86, Eugene; Jim Matejka, 69, Eugene; Jane Dods, 70, Springfield; Melanie Reske, 85, Springfield; Carol Clark, 73, Cottage Grove; Bud Proctor, 70, Junction City; Ruth Frohmuth, 80, Oakridge.

These inspirational Older Americans will be recognized at a public reception at Willamalane Adult Activity Center in Springfield on Thursday, May 18, from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. The Lane County Coalition of Senior Programs will unveil an Older Americans Month Poster "*In Motion After 60*," which features a photo of each of the honorees.

Two Meals on Wheels Benefits Scheduled

Proceeds from two events will benefit Meals on Wheels sponsored by Senior & Disabled Services, and the American Red Cross which work cooperatively to deliver meals in Lane County.

University of Oregon Robinson Theater Performance

*Midsummer
Night's Dream*

final performance!
Sunday, June 4, 2 p.m.

The Robinson Theater is located on the northwest corner of the U of O Campus. Ticket prices will be \$12 general public, \$9 seniors age 60+, and \$7 for youths age 6-18.

Proceeds from advance tickets purchased at the following locations will be donated to Meals on Wheels: Campbell Senior Center, 155 High St., Eugene; River Road Park and Recreation District, 1400 Lake Dr., Eugene; Willamalane Adult Activity Center, 215 West C St., Springfield; Viking Sal Senior Center, 245 West 5th St, Junction City; Red Cross, 862 Bethel Drive, Eugene; Peterson Barn Community Center, 870 Berntzen Road, Eugene. Please call (541) 682-4483 for ticket information.

Vitality Walk/Run

The Downtown Athletic Club sponsors the 14th Annual Vitality Walk/Run starts at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 17 at Alton Baker Park. Registration for the 2 mile walk, and 2 or 4 mile run begins at 7:30 a.m. Participants will receive a T-shirt and a 2 week guest pass to the Downtown Athletic Club. Early registration is \$20; day of race registration is \$25. Call (541) 682-4483 for more information.



Senior & Disabled Services Provides Choice Counseling to Over 6,000 Eligible Clients

The Medicare Modernization Act (MMA) Choice Counselor Unit at Senior & Disabled Services, a division of LCOG, is comprised of temporary employees charged with the responsibility to provide choice counseling to approximately 6,700 dual eligible clients. The unit began this endeavor on November 1, 2005, by contacting all dual eligible clients by phone, letters, or office visits. At least 3,500 clients provided choice counselors with medication and pharmacy information to be utilized in the Medicare Web Tool to ensure proper enrollment in an appropriate Medicare Prescription Drug Plan (PDP). The unit also collaborated with local nursing homes, foster homes, and partner

agencies. Choice counselors conducted trainings and are also available for trouble shooting.

Upon the implementation of this program on January 1, 2006, S&DS has received close to 750 complaints from clients, providers, and representatives, regarding Medicare Part D Prescription Drug coverage. The complaints involve several different aspects of the MMA program. As a result of choice counselors working with clients, pharmacies, Medicare, PDP's, and the Department of Human Services, 668 issues have been resolved. The unit will continue to provide problem solving and choice counseling through May 31, 2006.

LCOG Approved for \$500,000 Loan from USDA

LCOG has been approved for a \$500,000 loan from the USDA under its Intermediary Re-Lending Program. This will be the sixth round of funding under this program and will bring the total amount borrowed from the USDA to \$4,878,000. LCOG has managed this program since 1995 and has made a total of 73 small business loans since inception which have led to creation and/or savings of 300 jobs. The loan program is available to any small business located outside of the Eugene-Springfield Urban Growth Boundary. For more information about the Loan Program, please contact Steve Dignam, Program Manager, at (541) 682-7450, or sdignam@lco.org.



Mark Simmons, State Director, USDA Rural Development; Gary Williams, Chairman, LCOG Board of Directors; Patrick Lanning, Vice Chairman, LCOG Board of Directors; Peter DeFazio, Congressman, 4th District Oregon (left to right)

STAFF PROFILE



Christine Puetz

SENIOR RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

Christine Puetz joined LCOG in November 2001. Her primary focus is grant research, coordination, and writing, and project and program development. Recent clients include Springfield School District 19, the Willamette Resources and Educational Network, the City of Creswell Airport, and the City of Eugene Parks and Open Space. The majority of her grant writing work has been in the areas of natural resources, economic development, capital project development, and capacity building for non-profit corporations.

Christine has fifteen years experience in grant research and writing for public and nonprofit organizations,

See **RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT page 7**

Continued from FUNDS AND RESOURCES page 1

- **HOMELAND SECURITY** — Planning, equipment, training, and volunteer support to improve homeland security efforts of Lane County fire and law enforcement jurisdictions and the Lane County Medical Society Medical Reserve Corps.
- **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INVESTIGATOR** — Support the District Attorney’s Domestic Violence Investigation and Prosecution Unit to provide interviews, follow-up photographs, and victim assistance with attention to rural and Hispanic victims.
- **100% ACCESS PROJECT FOR HEALTH CARE** — Improve access to health care in Lane County, providing better care for more people at less cost with a focus on the uninsured and under insured.
- **DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES FOR AN ECONOMIC FUTURE** — Complete a series of technical plans that allow the City of Creswell to identify its niche in the region.
- **INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS** — Allow the Lane County Sheriff’s Office, City of Eugene, City of Springfield, Lane Fire Defense Board, and EWEB to complete a unified Lane County Interoperable Communications Plan and purchase and install essential equipment.

- **CRESWELL LIBRARY PROJECT** — Assist in the relocation of the library from a small structure built in 1874 to a larger, modern facility.

Economic development, airport improvements, arts in education, regional water quality, and habitat restoration are subjects of pending grant applications on behalf of LCOG members. Whatever the community size or organizational endeavor, grant funding is one way to augment projects. Grant application criteria often serve as a mirror to the prospective applicant to gauge the project’s status; are we fully prepared to carry out and to manage the project?

If you need assistance with grant research, development, coordination, evaluation, and/or writing, contact Christine Puetz, Senior Resource Development Specialist, (541)682-3063, cpuetz@lcoog.org, or Susan Sowards, Principal Planner, (541) 682-7493, ssowards@lcoog.org.

Resource Development & Evaluation
Let LCOG be your resource development and evaluation services.

Sometimes It's a Catch-22:
You need grant funding for a special program or project, but don't have the expertise to either find the right funding source for your activity or to write and assemble the grant application package.

Maybe It's Simply a Question of Timing:
A potentially valuable grant application is not submitted because the staff time to pursue it is assigned to other worthy projects, and the grant opportunity is lost.

Perhaps a Number of Partners
have come together with a goal of implementing a project using grant funds, but none of them has the time to serve as the project's design and development coordinator.

Do You Need
an operational readiness review to evaluate and improve organization capacity.

Perhaps You Need Assistance
designing performance measures or determining analysis methodology.

Or What is Needed
is research and data collection to support your project's effectiveness.

Maybe Your Agency Requires
a neutral or outside organization to design and conduct the evaluation component of your program or project. When appropriate, we also work in partnership with the University of Oregon to bring you the best service possible.

With an excellent track record of success, LCOG's Resource Development and Evaluation Team is here to serve you. We welcome the opportunity to meet with you to help determine the kind and level of resource development and evaluation services that best meet your specific needs.

Our Services:

- Grant research and grant writing
- Project development and coordination
- Evaluation design and implementation
- Budget development and implementation
- Organizational capacity building
- Operational management
- Strategic and business plans
- Group facilitation

Our Staff:

Christine Puetz
Resource Development Specialist
(541) 682-3063 or cpuetz@lane.cog.or.us

Susan Sowards
Principal Planner
(541) 682-7493 or ssowards@lane.cog.or.us

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Creswell Parks and Open Space Master Plan

In the fall of 2005, the City of Creswell adopted its first-ever Parks and Open Space Master Plan. The plan is intended to be the policy framework that outlines improvements to existing parks as well as the guide for development of parks, open space and recreation facilities in Creswell over the next 20 to 50 years.

An outstanding committee of 11 people diligently worked through the multitude of tasks needed to complete the plan, including:

- An assessment of how Creswell's existing parkland, school fields, open space and recreation facilities measure up to community desires, and national and state guidelines;
- A description of how anticipated future parks and open space needs will be met;
- Development of a comprehensive vision for Creswell's parks and open space system 20 years into the future;

- Development of specific strategies and actions to achieve that vision; and
- Identification of potential locations for parks, open spaces and trail connections within and around Creswell.

Community input was solicited through a community-wide survey and a public open house. At the open house, residents of all ages expressed interest in the project, and weighed in on the vision and plan.

The city has retained the parks committee to serve as the Creswell Parks Advisory Board, which will work with the city council to realize the elements within the plan.

For more information, please contact Megan Banks, Senior Planner, at (541) 682-7413 or mbanks@lcog.org.

Continued from **RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT** page 6

and eight years in affordable housing development, funding, and construction. She has also been a private consultant, specializing in organizational development, community outreach, and program development and funding. Christine has an Interdisciplinary Masters Degree (public affairs, community education, and counseling) from the University of Oregon. She is also a member of the LCOG Facilitation Team.

"In my job the learning is non-stop—one week I'm learning about the importance of wetlands and the next week, I'm gaining a greater appreciation for the arts in public education. Working with staff and volunteers dedicated to making a difference in their communities is a bonus."

Christine can be reached at (541) 682-3063 or at cpuetz@lcog.org.



Benches provide seating along Garden Lake Park's new trail.

LCOG Budget Revision Approved

At the recommendation of LCOG’s Executive Director and the agency’s six-member Budget Committee, the Board of Directors acted on April 27 to adopt a revision to the FY 2005-06 LCOG Budget. The original budget was adopted in June 2005, and both revenue and cost circumstances had changed during the intervening period. Ten months into the fiscal year, the budget revision captured available resources and necessary expenditures to support the adopted work program through June, the end of the current fiscal year.

While adjustments were made throughout the budget document, the most significant change was necessitated by the agency’s participation in student bus pass program sponsored by the Lane Transit District and underwritten by Pacific Continental

Bank. While LCOG’s role in this popular program has primarily been to provide a “pass-through” function, the budget implications are approximately \$4 million in the current fiscal year. The new FY 2005-06 budget totals \$28,183,370—an increase of approximately 19 percent.

Staffing expense serving as a barometer for the functional magnitude of “labor intensive” organizations such as LCOG, the revised budget calls for a decrease of 10.9 full-time-equivalent (FTE) positions from the staffing level envisioned in the original FY 2005-06 Budget. The primary factor leading to this reduction was the State of Oregon’s funding decisions related to LCOG’s Senior & Disabled Services. That division will experience an annualized reduction of 7 FTE. The new

budget authorization anticipates an agency wide staffing level for the current year of 170.92 FTE.

In his Comment and Recommendation associated with the revision, Executive Director George Kloeppel noted the staffing reduction and the reduced proportion of total resources dedicated to personnel. As a consequence of funding decisions made outside of the organization, “every effort is being made to ‘work smarter’ and apply technology to assist our professionals to provide excellent service.” he said.

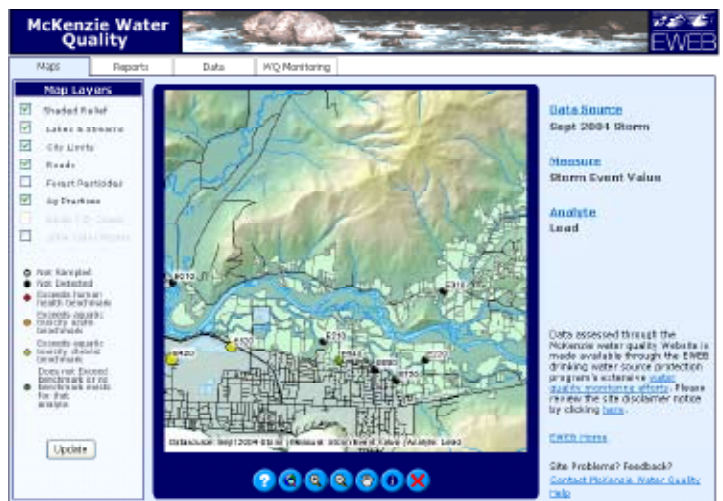
The LCOG Budget Committee continues its work to prepare a budget that will guide and support the agency’s work in the fiscal year that will begin July 1.

EWEB Contracts with LCOG to Build Web Application

Since 2002, LCOG has been working with Eugene Water and Electric Board’s (EWEB) drinking water source protection program to integrate water quality data collected in the McKenzie River watershed into a central database. This continually growing database has provided EWEB the ability to more easily assess potential water quality issues in its drinking water source. To satisfy their goal of providing public access to this information, EWEB contracted with LCOG to build a web application linked to the database. The result of this effort,

www.MckenzieWaterQuality.org is now up and running. This site provides access to water quality monitoring results, either as maps or tables, and can also be used to download data from the database. Because it is a good example of how public data can be made available to a broad audience, LCOG staff were recently invited by

the Center for Disease Control to give a presentation on this project at a national conference on environmental public health tracking.

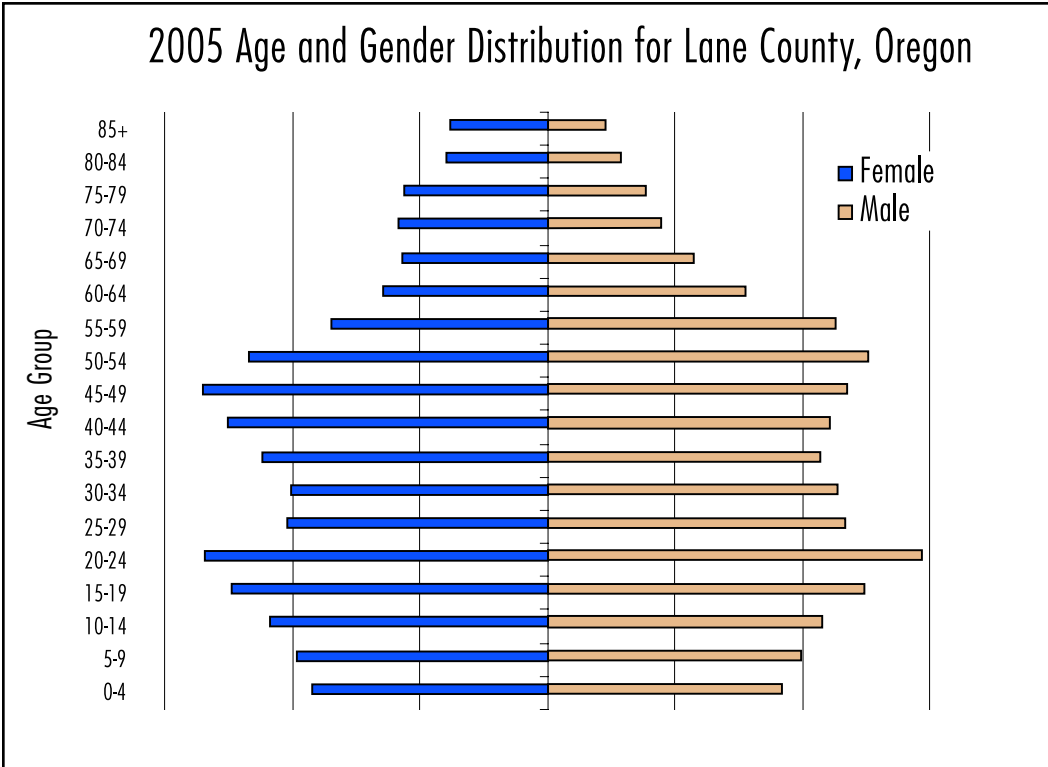


Regional Trends:

Data for Sound Decision Making in Lane County

LCOG has earned the reputation as a reliable resource for statistical data. Such data describe a variety of characteristics such as economic and

sentations, planning projects, grant applications, and economic development projects. It will also provide accurate and timely data that reflects



In 2005, 28.6% of Lane County residents were between the ages of 40-60, reflecting the “Baby-Boom” generation; 22.5% of Lane County residents were between the ages of 10-24, reflecting the “Echo-Boom” – the children of the Baby Boomers.

Source: Office of Economic Analysis
Compiled by LCOG

population growth, traffic indicators, school enrollment changes, and population and employment density within Lane County.

The first annual *Regional Trends: Data for Sound Decision Making in Lane County* will be available this spring. The report is a sampling of the most requested data sets. This information will assist staff and public officials with research, pre-

not only changing trends over time but a current snapshot in areas of particular interest. *Regional Trends: Data for Sound Decision Making in Lane County* will be updated and released annually.

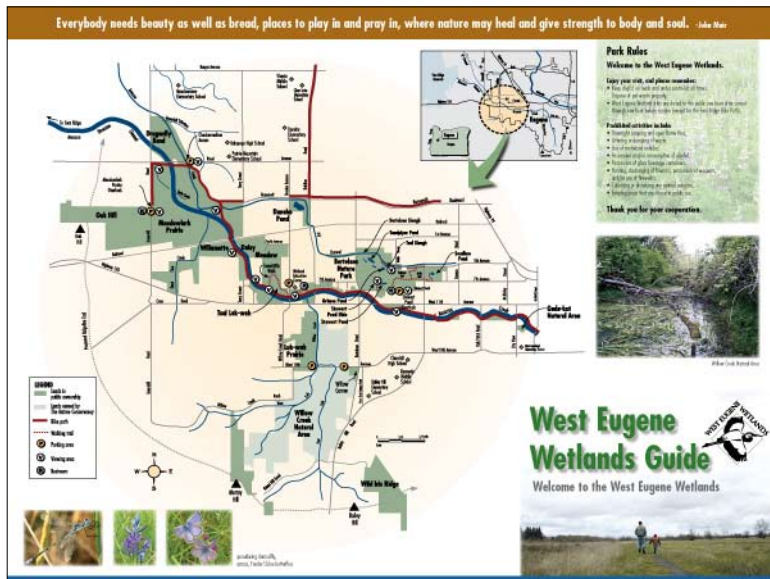
Please contact Kay Bork, at (541) 682-6441 or kbork@lcog.org if you would like to receive a copy of *Regional Trends: Data for Sound Decision Making in Lane County*.



LCOG's Creative Services Provides Design Excellence

LCOG's Creative Services team provided graphic support and expertise for several projects for the City of Eugene, BLM (Bureau of Land Management), and WREN (Willamette Resources and Education Network). Staff worked on design, layout, and publication reproduction coordination for the following projects:

- Public Works Annual Report 2005, City of Eugene
- Public Works Work Plan 2007, City of Eugene
- West Eugene Wetlands Annual Report 2005, City of Eugene



- A Guide to the West Eugene Wetlands April 2006, City of Eugene, BLM, and WREN

- West Eugene Wetlands Award Certificates 2006, City of Eugene
- Stormwater Connections Newsletter Spring 2006, City of Eugene



Eugene-Springfield Students Ride LTD for Free

An innovative collaboration among LCOG and other organizations is successfully filling buses. All students in grades 6 through 12 enrolled at public and private schools in Eugene and Springfield are eligible to ride Lane Transit District (LTD) buses for free during the 2005-06 academic year. The Student Transit Pass Program (STPP) began on October 1, 2005, and will continue through June 30, 2006.

The goal of the program is to reduce traffic around local schools by encouraging more students to ride the bus for their school commute, as well as riding to other destinations. The program also improves student safety, enhances air quality, and improves our community's quality of life.

The program is proving to be a success. Passenger counts conducted each month since the program began show that students are boarding LTD an average of at least 5,000 times per day on weekdays and about 1,200 times per day on weekends. Overall LTD ridership is up by 8-12 percent over a year ago; about half of this increase is estimated to be from students in the STPP program.

Visit the Smart Ways to School website at www.swts.ltd.org or call (541) 682-6212 for more information.

The program is provided through a unique public/private partnership among LCOG, LTD, Commuter Solutions, Pacific Continental Bank, and the innovative Business Energy Tax Credit (BETC) Program that is administered by the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE). The BETC is an incentive program offered to businesses, non-profits, and public entities in Oregon to conserve energy consumption. Smart Ways to School (SWTS), a service of Commuter Solutions that encourages students to walk, bike, carpool, or ride a bus, is coordinating the program.

Smart Ways to School also provides School-Pool, a free carpool-match service and free help for parents who want to organize walking and bicycling "school bus" groups. Visit the Smart Ways to School website at www.swts.ltd.org or call (541) 682-6212 for more information.



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LCOG CALENDAR

www.lcog.org/calen

The following calendar refers to most public events held by Lane Council of Governments. The meetings are held on a regular basis at the dates and locations listed. Meetings that are scheduled as a full-time meeting/retreat are available online in the Electronic Journal.

The other public information: (541) 682-4072

Month	Date	Time	Meeting Name	Location
April 2006	5	8:30 a.m.	Transportation Planning Commission	Regener Library, Eugene, Ore.
	6	7:00 p.m.	Board of Commissioners	Regener Council Chamber
	10	7:00 p.m.	State Services Review Board	Regener Center
	13	10:00 a.m.	Historical Park Commission	Regener Library, Eugene, Ore.
	17	10:00 a.m.	Lane Economic Commission	LCOG 4th Floor Large Conf. Room
	20	9:00 a.m.	LCOG Board Meeting	LCOG 4th Floor Large Conf. Room
	27	7:00 p.m.	LCOG Board	LCOG 4th Floor Large Conf. Room
May 2006	8	8:30 a.m.	Transportation Planning Commission	Regener Library, Eugene, Ore.
	11	11:00 a.m.	Historical Park Commission	Regener Library, Eugene, Ore.
	15	7:00 p.m.	State Services Review Board	LCOG 4th Floor Large Conf. Room
	18	11:00 a.m.	Lane Economic Commission	LCOG 4th Floor Large Conf. Room
	24	9:00 a.m.	LCOG Board Meeting	LCOG 4th Floor Large Conf. Room
	26	7:00 p.m.	LCOG Board	LCOG 4th Floor Large Conf. Room

Current meeting schedules are now available on the LCOG website at www.lcog.org/calen.html



A Statewide Planning Conference



CARING FOR THE COMMONS

SEPTEMBER 14-15, 2006
at the University of Oregon

Planning Commissioner Training
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

www.lcog.org/opi