What makes my community a nice place to live?

Everyone might answer this question a little differently. Some would say they enjoy their tree-lined residential streets with sidewalks, benches, parks and trails. Others would put schools, athletic facilities, close shopping areas, reliable public transit systems, churches, libraries and museums at the top of their list. And many love a bustling downtown strip made up of small businesses with unique shop fronts, friendly gathering places, architecture and walkways lined with street lamps and park benches that reveal their community’s rich history. Others appreciate expansive outdoor spaces with rolling hills, forests, wetlands, nurseries, wineries, orchards, farms and fields of horses, cows, goats and lamas.

Topics affecting how and where we live, referred to as livability issues, are the focus of all CPO efforts.

Livability issues include: housing, transportation, safety, health, education, business and jobs, access to goods and services, social and leisure activities, environment, natural features preservation and enhancement, attractiveness, and a sense of belonging.

In this issue, learn how your local CPO works with the County, cities, State, service districts and other agencies to improve upon the livability of the communities in Washington County. Find out what it takes to plan and develop communities that function well for residents.

And most importantly, find out how getting involved in your CPO can actually make a difference in your own personal experiences living and working in your community.
Mission: To encourage and empower public involvement

Washington County CPOs are making it happen!

Where else can you meet your County Commissioner, Metro Councilor or State Rep? At your local CPO meeting, find out what law enforcement is working on in your community. Share your ideas with the people who plan and develop your community parks, schools and neighborhoods. Our Community Participation Organizations (CPOs) are hard at work addressing the issues—safety, transportation, housing, education, environment, healthcare, technology, commerce—that affect the quality of life of the members of the communities they serve.

Leading the efforts of CPOs 3 and 7 are two new hard working volunteer dynamos.

As the CPO 3 Chair, Ross Peterson focuses much of his energy on addressing transportation issues. Traffic congestion is a way of life for the residents of the Garden Home, Raleigh Hills and West Slope communities. Lined with strip malls and businesses, Hwy 10, Hwy 217 and Hwy 26 are heavily traveled throughways to the city of Portland. Travel times are long. Intersections are oftentimes parking lots, and accidents are on the rise. In many areas, it is difficult to bike or walk...
CCI
Committee for Community Involvement
Washington County Committee for Community Involvement (CCI) focuses on community involvement policy issues and provides time for CPOs to come together to discuss emerging issues. Monthly meetings are held on the third Tuesday at 7 pm, Edwards Center - Aloha Community Center, 4375 SW Edwards, Aloha. The public is welcome!

Find meeting materials and schedule updates at: WashCoCCI.org

Mary DeLoria has joined the Community Engagement team!

Mary comes to Washington County Community Engagement with a background in local government, paralegal work, technology, networking and exceptional organizational skills, bringing much needed support to the program’s coordinators and program specialist. In the short time she has been with the program, her experience has been brought to bear on a broad range of CPO support efficiencies, in addition to taking on multiple tasks that will ultimately improve public involvement approaches across county departments and divisions.

Mary’s contributions are taking much administrative burden off other team members, in turn allowing additional focus and energy to go into addressing requested (and needed) opportunities for enhanced community engagement and participation efforts.

Please join us in welcoming Mary as part of your support team! When you are in the area, feel free to stop in and say “Hi” to Mary and your other Community Engagement staff.

CPO 12C Cornelius-West Dairy Creek membership has more than doubled since activating two years ago!!!

safely. Since becoming chair, Ross has brought representatives from the County and partner agencies to listen to CPO 3 members’ concerns and ideas and to share what is being done now and in the future to address the problems.

Cindy Thackery leads CPO 7 which serves the Bethany, Rock Creek and Sunset West areas. Earlier this year, Cindy and other CPO 7 members worked together with neighboring CPO 1 to hold two joint meeting events, one around the issue of school overcrowding and another special election event covering the candidates and ballot measures. Since these meetings centered around topics that affected the quality of life of many people in the CPO 1 and CPO 7 communities, hundreds attended and participated.

Much is going on in every community across Washington County. CPOs make it their business to keep up on what’s happening so they can share it with you.

Populations are growing. New housing developments are popping up everywhere. Businesses are experiencing periods of growth. New roadways are being built, and old roadways are being improved. New water systems, schools, parks, nature areas, bike and pedestrian trails are being developed. It is a lot to follow, but your CPO knows the what, when and where. Visit your CPO home page to see when the next meeting is, what topics are planned, and who the guest speakers are going to be. And then drop in! For more info visit: www.WashCoCPO.org

CPO6
Serves: Aloha, Cooper Mountain, Reedville
Meetings: 1st Thursday of every month, 7 pm, TVF&R Community Room, 20665 SW Blanton St., Aloha
Chair: Liles Garcia
cpo6steering@gmail.com 503-846-6283
www.WashCoCPO6.org

CPO7
Serves: Bethany, Rock Creek, Sunset West
Meetings: 2nd Monday of every month, 7 pm, TVF&R Station 68, 13545 NW Evergreen St., Portland
Chair: Cindy Thackery
cpo7chair@gmail.com 503-759-4645
www.WashCoCPO7.org

CPO8
Serves: Helvetia, North Plains, Mountaintdale
Meetings: 2nd Thursday of the month, held as needed, 7 pm, TVF&R Station 17, 31370 NW Commercial St., North Plains
Chair: Henry Oberhelman
hoberhelman@gmail.com 503-816-5975
www.WashCoCPO8.org

CPO10
Serves: Hillsboro, Orenco
Currently inactive.
If you are interested in helping CPO 9 become active, contact Dan Schauer at 503-846-6287.

CPO meeting schedules are subject to change. Visit your CPO online for upcoming meeting details.
Great communities are inspired by people who live and work in them.

Washington County is the second largest county in the state and is made up of many diverse communities which serve their residents well. This did not happen by accident. When decisions are made that affect your community, the best approach is to involve the experts—those of you who live and work in the community. Here are some examples.

The City of Hillsboro sought public input and participation at all stages during the development of their Hillsboro 2020 Vision and Action Plan, which led to many community enhancements including a civic center plaza, dog parks, arts center, diverse housing options, community gardens, family-friendly community events and a professional sports team and field. The Hillsboro 2035 Community Plan is currently underway and is based on input and ideas from over 5,000 community members.

The City of Cornelius worked with a committee of community members and is based on input and ideas from over 5,000 community members.

Every Day in Washington County*

20 New Babies Are Born
15 New Jobs Are Created
3 New Patents Registered
39 New People Come to Live
3 New Companies Start or Locate
44 New Vehicle Registrations

*Source: Washington County Chairman of the Board Andy Duyck State of the Union 2017
to develop a plan to enhance the image and vitality of the downtown with street, sidewalk, bike path, and civic/open space improvements.

Today, storefronts, benches and street lamps, movies and concerts in the park, and a new library all provide a more enjoyable living experience in the Cornelius community.

A number of recent initiatives in the Aloha and Reedville areas have involved a partnership between planners and the residents of these communities. The *Aloha-Reedville Study and Livable Community Plan*, a three-year effort by Washington County, Metro, the cities of Hillsboro and Beaverton and other partners to engage the entire community in developing a plan to improve the quality of life for all residents. The goal included identifying strategies to support job growth, business development, affordable housing options and transportation solutions.

**What’s happening where you live? Your CPO knows.**

Washington County, cities, service districts and other agencies provide opportunities for community members to become involved. Your local CPO follows the planning and development in your community and knows when these opportunities are available.

**Attend your next CPO meeting to find out what is happening and how you can participate!**

**Two CPO chairs provide their communities with an invaluable resource: very local news.**

CPO 1 Chair Virginia Bruce and CPO 13 Chair Chas Hundley publish their own local newspapers, keeping their neighbors up to date on what is happening in their communities.

**Peggy leaves behind a long list of CPO 15 and personal accomplishments that greatly improved the lives of the residents of the communities of Blooming and Fern Hill and the County overall.**

Over the years, Peggy worked with neighboring CPO 10 to host events on topics that affected more than just the CPO 15 communities. For example, the partner CPOs held annual candidates forums that provided open Q&A sessions. They also hosted a series of panel discussions with Internet providers to address the issue of inadequate rural Internet access. The discussions were instrumental in getting the first completed Frontier Communications installation in the area. Coming up this month, CPO 10 and 15 are hosting a special event on homelessness. 

Peggy was also one of the drivers behind Quake Up, an annual disaster preparedness event for Washington County. Since its start in 2015, Quake Up has leveraged the resources from dozens of public and private partners to reach about 3,000 people in the first two events. The event continues to be popular, turning out large crowds every year.

Above all else, Peggy’s positive outlook and inexhaustible efforts have inspired action and involvement by others. Thank you, Peggy, for the many years of service to your community!
A RESOURCE

Tired of the bad traffic conditions where you live and work? Check out the Washington County Neighborhood Streets Program!

Traffic conditions on residential streets can affect the livability of a community. Washington County’s Neighborhood Streets Program (NSP) is a way for community members to address traffic-related quality of life issues such as speeding and parking infiltration.

**The goals of the Neighborhood Streets Program are to preserve and improve livability by:**
- Discouraging undesirable driver behavior
- Improving the safety of pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers
- Involving area residents in solving traffic problems.

This is a two-year program, centered on the involvement of the people who live and work in the neighborhoods. For more information, call 503-846-7949 or visit: [www.co.washington.or.us/lut/divisions/trafficengineering/nsp/index.cfm](http://www.co.washington.or.us/lut/divisions/trafficengineering/nsp/index.cfm)

**Want to get involved in improving the rules that help shape your community?**

Join the CCI Land Use Code & Ordinance Subcommittee!

This Subcommittee performs important roles to help the public have a say in the County’s land development regulations.

The Land Use Code & Ordinance Subcommittee studies emerging issues and makes recommendations to the Committee for Community Involvement (CCI) for selected issues. These are considered in the Washington County Annual Long Range Planning Work Program. This includes tracking ordinances during Ordinance Season (March-October), sending letters and testifying on ordinances of interest.

It reports to the CCI and also engages with and informs various constituencies on emerging issues year-round. This provides public opportunities to weigh in and make the most of the process.

For example, the Subcommittee is working on better rules for integrating infill development (developing the small areas between existing housing) and finding ways to eliminate sidewalk gaps.

Some other issues that have been raised recently or in years past include: requests for County development code protection for trees and forests in the urban unincorporated areas; rules for vacation rentals; and rules prohibiting roosters in urban unincorporated areas.

If you have ideas about ways to make Washington County work better for its residents, join the Land Use Code & Ordinance Committee! It meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 4 pm. Email Mary Manseau at: marymanseau@gmail.com

**AN UPDATE**

Following land use law making just got a little easier.

A number of new pages have been added to the County’s website that list ordinances by their status.

For access to both of these new pages visit: [www.co.washington.or.us/landuseordinances](http://www.co.washington.or.us/landuseordinances)
What is a neighborhood meeting?

A neighborhood meeting is not your friendly neighborhood barbecue. Nor is it your local HOA (Home Owners Association) meeting. But, it does have impacts on your neighborhood. Developers are required by the County and cities to hold neighborhood meetings, open to the public, to notify those who live and own businesses or property in the immediate surrounding areas of their proposed developments.

Neighborhood meetings are listed in your local CPO’s meeting notices along with other participation opportunities. Your CPO leaders follow upcoming neighborhood meetings and encourage their fellow community members to attend whenever possible. A neighborhood meeting provides a place where community members can share their issues and concerns regarding a specific proposed development. As part of the development review process for most land use applications, developers often take into account the concerns presented by community members at the meetings before submitting their land use applications. So, it does make a difference when you attend and share your ideas and concerns!


GET INVOLVED

Looking for a volunteer opportunity where you can apply your skills and expertise? Consider a position on a County board, committee or commission!

Serving on an appointed board, committee or commission is a great way to participate in decisions that affect you and your community. Members have the essential role of advising the elected Board of Commissioners on a wide range of topics such as transportation, land use, safety, health, housing, parks, the environment, economic development and more. If you would like to volunteer your time, talents and experience to help preserve and improve the quality of life within your community, this may be the opportunity for you. For a full list of opportunities, visit https://washco.granicus.com/boards/w/b7ebe19be8d33a24. To apply, use the online form (link below) or obtain a paper application from the County Administrative Office by calling 503-846-8685.


GIVE FEEDBACK

TriMet completed fall service changes based on what their riders requested.

TriMet makes changes throughout the year based on feedback from riders. If you have any feedback on your bus service, share your thoughts at: https://trimet.org/alerts/service-change/2017fall/index.htm#feedback

The CCI and your local CPO have many volunteer opportunities to consider.

Share your skills, knowledge and expertise! Your local CPO and the CCI are always looking for volunteers who are interested in working on and following the issues, planning events, recruiting new members, generating ideas and more. Contact your CPO chair or program coordinator for more information (see pages 2-3 for contact info).

A CPO is not a robot.
Adelante Mujeres

Adelante Mujeres ("women rise-up, move forward"), located in the heart of downtown Forest Grove, has a rich history of successfully engaging the low-income Latino and immigrant communities by providing educational resources and acting as a forum for community advocacy. Washington County, in collaboration with Adelante Mujeres, is proud to launch the Washington County Civic Leaders Project. The pilot project seeks to provide participants from communities of color with culturally-specific and hands-on leadership training to better equip them to become active in government decisionmaking and civic life. For more info visit: www.adelantemujeres.org/home/

You can make a difference.

You help shape your community when you participate. Here are a number of resources that can help you stay on top of projects, developments and processes, keeping you engaged and aware of upcoming opportunities to participate.

Washington County: washtech.co.washington.or.us/subscriptions/
City of Beaverton: www.beavertonoregon.gov/list.aspx
City of North Plains: cityofnp.org/
State of Oregon: public.govdelivery.com/accounts/ORDOT/subscriber/new?
Metro: www.oregonmetro.gov/subscribe
Tualatin Hills Park & Rec District: www.thprd.org/connect/e-newsletter
Willamette Water Supply Program: www.ourreliablewater.org/

Get informed, ask questions, over lunch.

The Washington County Public Affairs Forum is held every Monday, 11:30 am, at the Golden Valley Brewery (1520 NW Bethany, Beaverton). The Forum hosts speakers who cover a range of current topics and take questions important to you and your community.

Sign up to receive the topic and speaker notices at: www.washington-countyforum.org/newsletter/

Let your CPO do the work for you.

Your local CPO follows what is happening in your community and knows when there are opportunities to participate. Attend your next local CPO meeting to hear directly from the planners, project leaders, elected officials and agency representatives. Participate in lively discussions and share your ideas!

Visit your local CPO online for their meeting schedule at: www.WashCoCPO.org