

The Citizen-Reporter



S H E R M A N
C O U N T Y

A Sherman County Government Publication — October 2017

Wasco School Events Center Building to be Saved, Restored, and Open to Public

Dear Friends of Wasco School,

It's been a year since our 100th birthday celebration for Wasco School, and we have exciting news to share with you. Effective July 1, 2017, the City of Wasco took possession of the school from the county, and the school will now be referred to as **Wasco School Events Center (WSEC)**. The building will be saved, restored, and available to the entire Sherman County community and surrounding area.

We have formed a Board of Directors and hired a part-time facility manager. They will be in charge of restoration of the building, applying for grants, scheduling use of the building and the adjacent gym, as well as renting office space and creating a fitness center.

The Sherman County Court has provided funding for major repairs to the building, including a new roof, replacing damaged ceilings, exterior repairs and paint, as well as heating and plumbing upgrades. The job of the Board of Directors is to generate steady income to offset monthly expenses such as heating and electricity, garbage, janitorial and maintenance services, and staff wages.

A year ago at our 100th birthday

celebration, many of you expressed an interest in preserving this historic facility. Now is your chance to take part, financially, as a volunteer, or both. If you would like to make a donation, we are a tax-free entity under the jurisdiction of the City of Wasco. If you have time to volunteer, help is needed in upgrading the rooms, writing grants, working on fundraising events, and numerous other projects.

Your donation can be made out to **Wasco School Events Center** and mailed to Box 413, Wasco, Oregon, 97065. If you would like to volunteer, please contact our manager, Melissa Montesanti, at 541-442-5778.

We will have the Wasco Fitness Center ready for membership starting October 1st. Stop by and take a look to find out the details for buying a monthly membership. It will be great to have access to a fitness center right in our own backyard!

Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

Wasco School Events Center Board of Directors

-Gail Macnab – Wasco School Events Center Board Member

Courthouse Facility Interior Spaces Take Shape

Work on the Sherman County Courthouse addition continues to march forward. Plumbing, HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning), and electrical system rough-in work is nearly complete, and crews are busy hanging and taping drywall inside the building. This is exciting because all of the interior spaces have taken shape, and we will soon begin to see finishes applied.

On the outside, all of the windows are installed, and the pre-cast concrete and brick veneer are in the process of wrapping around the building. It is looking great and is running on schedule for occupancy near the first of the year.

The project team is also working on finalizing plans for the structural elements that will be added to the existing building to support the new cupola. This work will be done in conjunction with the other interior work scheduled for the existing building in early 2018, and the cupola is expected to be installed during the spring. A big thanks to everyone working hard onsite to make all of this happen!

-Heath Gardner, Wenaha Group

Sherman County Fire & Emergency Services Agencies Receive Life-Saving Pet Equipment

Sherman County Fire & EMS personnel recognize how important pets are to people. Some pet owners consider pets "Fur Babies" and like their children. This is why we are excited to report that Sherman County Ambulance and all fire districts in Sherman County are now carrying Pet Oxygen Mask Systems. Each kit contains 3 sizes of masks, which will fit extra-large dogs all the way down to a ferret.

While pet oxygen masks are not new in the veterinary field, they are relatively new in the fire and EMS realm. These masks will allow fire and EMS personnel to resuscitate household pets. These pet mask systems, which cost just under \$100 per set, were donated by Invisible Fence under a program called "Project Breathe."

-Shawn Payne, Emergency Services Director



Pictured: Marley proudly showcases the new pet-saving emergency equipment. The masks come in three sizes and will fit large pets and pets as small as a ferret.

Biggs Service District Water System Improvements Project Update

Brad Baird, Anderson Perry & Associates, presented an update on the Biggs Service District's Water System Improvement Project as of July 2017. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) application and environmental report are under review. The USDA is also reviewing the Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee engineering agreement. The Oregon Water Resources Department is processing the well permit.

The partition is almost finished. The access road route has been surveyed and is being mapped out so it can be shown as the legal access for the reservoir and well site.

USDA requested a revised application and other items based on the additional project budget items discussed previously, specifically the USDA application and environmental report, interim financing, bonding attorney,

and archaeological evaluation.

A professional archaeologist reviewed the reservoir site and access road and also completed shovel test probes on the excavation side of the reservoir site and access road. Nothing significant was found. The results will be submitted to the District and the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) for concurrence.

The bonding authority and bonding attorney schedule is moving forward. The funding request is for \$1,672,900. Assuming no grant is received, a full bonding amount would be the safest way to proceed, but some grant is anticipated. A mandatory connection ordinance is required by USDA.

More updates will be reported as the project moves forward.



Free Medicare Class at CGCC

The Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance (SHIBA) program is a state-federal program that trains a network of volunteer counselors to offer free, unbiased counseling to Oregonians with Medicare.

These are the types of things SHIBA callers say "nobody told me:"

- I might need to go to the Social Security office to sign up for Medicare because not everyone automatically gets a Medicare card in the mail.
- The deadlines to sign up for Part B (doctor bills) and Part D (prescription drugs) are different.
- I might get help paying for Medicare's prescription drug coverage or for my Part B expenses.
- The only office I should talk to about whether I need Part B at this time is Social Security and I should document my call or visit.
- I should check every year to see if my Medicare prescription drug plan is raising prices or dropping any of my prescriptions from those it covers.

Class Information

When & Where: From 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at Hood River Campus and from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at The Dalles Campus on Thursday, October 12th.

Who should enroll: People in Medicare or soon to be in Medicare, insurance agents and others who work with Medicare recipients.

Register: Call (541) 506-6011 for the class in The Dalles or (541) 308-8211 for the class in Hood River.

Help with Medicare: Call SHIBA at: 1-800-722-4134

Volunteer opportunity: SHIBA trains and supports volunteer counselors who want to help people with Medicare in their community. Learn more by attending this class or by calling SHIBA.

For more formation, visit SHIBA at www.oregonshiba.org or the department at www.dcbs.oregon.gov.

- Britta Willson, Mid-Columbia Council of Governments

Public/School Library Updates

FALL/WINTER HOURS

Monday	8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday	8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Thursday	8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Friday	8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

TECHNOLOGY HELP

Help is available with Microsoft Office software, Facebook, e-mail accounts, smart phone technology, and more! Stop by or give us a call to make an appointment.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE BACKPACKS

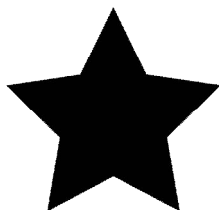
Come check out our new outdoor adventure backpacks! Each backpack has themed books, binoculars, a compass, crafts, and everything else you need for adventures out your door. The four themes are Sky, Birds, Bugs, and Tracks. Thank you to the Sherman County Parent Teacher Organization for donating the backpacks.

LIBRARY BOOK CLUB

Join us for tea, dessert, and book discussion. Please call or e-mail the library for times and dates.

"A book, too, can be a star, 'explosive material, capable of stirring up fresh life endlessly,' a living fire to lighten the darkness, leading out into the expanding universe."

- Madeleine L'Engle



- Marylou Martin, Library Director

NEW NON-FICTION BEST SELLERS

"The American Spirit" - David McCullough
 "Sapiens, A Brief History of Mankind" - Yuval Noah Harari
 "Astrophysics for People in a Hurry" - Neil DeGrasse Tyson
 "Option B" - Sheryl Sandberg

NEW FICTION BEST SELLERS

"Lucky Boy" - Shanthi Sekaran
 "Seven Stones To Stand or Fall" - Diana Gabaldon
 "Into the Water" - Paula Hawkins
 "Crime Scene" - Jonathan Kellerman
 "Golden Prey" - John Sandford
 "If Not for You" - Debbie Macomber
 "Point of Contact" - Tom Clancy

Phone:

541-565-3279

Address:

65912 High School Loop
 Moro, Oregon, 97039

Website:

ShermanCountyPSL.weebly.com/

Email:

shermanlibrary@sherman.k12.or.us

CRAFTS IN STACKS

Introducing *Crafts in Stacks*, a monthly crafting class. Each month features a different seasonal theme. We will learn a new skill as we create wonderful arts and crafts.

In October, we will learn how to make fun wool felted items, and everyone will go home with a wonderful felted acorn necklace. Please visit our website or give us a call for details.

DISCOVERY KITS

Themed buckets contain "Early Learning Kits" for teachers, parents, and caregivers of children. They include read-aloud books, books for emergent readers, videos, and hands-on materials for young ones to enjoy. Teacher guides and early learning tip sheets are included.

What is Frontier TeleNet & Frontier Digital, and Who Owns It?...You Do!

Frontier TeleNet (FTN) is an ORS190 which serves as a "Mission Critical" Emergency Services Communications system. The system is wholly owned by Sherman, Gilliam, and Wheeler counties and covers over 20,000 square miles and 30,000 lives, including Jefferson County. It has the ability to connect up to nine different counties in Oregon and Washington. FTN has recently completed a core microwave upgrade in its northern loop to provide gig speeds; it also has fiber optic assets to create an even faster backbone for police, fire, ambulance, schools, and residential and commercial use of the network.

Frontier Digital Network (FDN) is also an ORS190 owned by the same three counties and is a P25 Phase II digital switch, which acts as a "radio signal translator" for UHF, VHF and 700 MHz Digital communications. This system has created the ability for FTN and Frontier Regional Dispatch to provide 911 services for Jefferson County, as well as the opportunity to provide 911 services for other counties, and soon will connect the Burns Paiute Tribe. These systems continue to create more jobs and allow the three owner counties to pay nothing towards their 911 services, unlike all other counties in the state.

For over 16 years, Frontier TeleNet has used a combination of grants, user fees,

and E-Rate dollars in order to build a system that serves all EMS communications, provides Internet to multiple school districts, and allows multiple ISP's to purchase Bandwidth and transport for residential and commercial Internet needs.

It is important to point out that while few other providers have been willing or able to serve our region in a meaningful way, FTN has built a system that functions at a "Mission Critical" level. This means that the equipment used is of the highest quality, redundancy is built into the system, back-up generators are used in key locations, and technicians are on-call 24-7 to handle any failures so the system has 99.999% uptime reliability. This is something the normal "Best Effort" systems simply cannot meet. A good example is the failure that caused 911 services in Wasco and Hood River counties to be down for multiple days. With the FTN system, this simply would not happen.

While building at the "Mission Critical" level is more expensive, FTN has been developed at no cost to the tax payers and has been self-sufficient since its creation. While the owner counties did choose to invest dollars in FDN, that system has created the ability to bring Jefferson County to Frontier Regional Dispatch. This has brought more jobs and over \$500,000.00 a year into our

counties, with the potential for even more. Recently, the State of Oregon provided all costs to connect to this system in order to have communications that they simply did not have. The State Police have been very appreciative of the partnership.

Some may have seen recent editorials stating they felt there were problems with Frontier TeleNet and document requests were going unanswered. The fact of the matter is, all documents that exist have been provided for some time. As for any issues with Frontier TeleNet, it simply does not make sense that a system that has done so much good for so long, and that has created 17 local jobs, could be what just a few have tried to label it as.

Frontier TeleNet and Frontier Digital Network continue to serve the needs of Sherman, Gilliam, and Wheeler counties, as well as other counties, a tribe, and the State of Oregon. This should make the owners of these networks very proud. Always remember, the real owner of these systems is YOU!

- Mike Smith, Frontier TeleNet



Sherman County Senior & Community Center Silent Auction Fundraiser

Dates:

*Monday and Tuesday
October 16-11am-2pm
October 17-9-12Noon*

Auction Time:

*12:00 Noon
October 17, 2017*

Location:

*Senior & Community Center
300 Dewey Street, Moro, OR
541-565-3191*

Please bring your donations to the Senior Center by 11:00 a.m. on Monday, October 16, 2017.

Join us to have lunch and a silent auction, with proceeds to the Senior & Community Center meal program. Auctioned items will include donated items and homemade delicacies. If not present, we will contact you to pick up your winning bid item. Contact us to donate or for further information.

Sherman County Health District News

New changes are once again happening for the Sherman County Health District and Sherman County Medical Clinic. The biggest change is the addition of our newest employee! Betsy von Borstel (formerly Fritts) is our new receptionist/billing clerk. Betsy is a native of Sherman County and recently moved back to the county. Betsy has already become a valued member of the Sherman County Medical Clinic team. Stop by the clinic and say hi to Betsy!

Flu season is right around the corner, and the Sherman County Medical Clinic is stocked with flu vaccines. Stay healthy this season and come get your flu shot! The Flu Shot Clinic will be held on Thursday, October 12th from 3-6 p.m. No appointment is necessary if you plan on getting your flu shot during the Flu Shot Clinic. If you are not able to attend the October 12th event, please call 541-565-3325 to schedule an appointment to get your flu shot.

The Sherman County Medical Clinic is helping end hunger in Sherman County.

If you can answer YES to either of the following questions, you are eligible for Sherman County's new Veggie Rx program:

1. In the last 12 months, did you and the people you live with *worry that you would* run out of food before you were able to get more?
2. In the last 12 months, did you and the people you live with *run out of food* before you were able to get more?

For more information, see Caitlin Blagg, District Administrator, Sherman County Health District & Sherman County Medical Clinic, in downtown Moro to sign up to receive \$30 in vouchers (per person in the family) for one month. Vouchers can be used at Husky's 97 Market, Wasco Market, Gorge Grown Mobile Market, or the Farmers Market on the first Saturday of each month. People eligible for the vouchers can go back once a month to receive more vouchers for the next

month. Veggie Rx is a program of Gorge Grown Food Network and Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization. This ground-breaking program helps address hunger needs in our community through Veggie Rx vouchers that can be redeemed at local grocery stores for FRESH fruits and vegetables! For more information, call Caitlin at the Sherman County Health District [541-565-0536](tel:541-565-0536) or the Sherman County Medical Clinic [541-565-3325](tel:541-565-3325).

The Board of Directors invites your input, questions, and comments. Board meetings are typically held on the 2nd Thursday of every month. The next meeting will be on October 12th, 2017, at 5:30 p.m. in the Administration Office.

Thank you!

- Caitlin Blagg, District Administrator, & Sherman County Health District Board of Directors



Sherman County Seeks to Encourage Rental Housing Development



After hearing many stories of new employees hired by Sherman County businesses or organizations that would like to live in Sherman County but can't find rental housing, Sherman County explored options to help spur the development of additional rental housing. A new incentive program will contribute up to \$5,000 per new rental housing unit constructed as an incentive to developers. A developer could choose whether these funds are used as a direct contribution upon completion of the development or used to buy down the interest rate that other lenders (bank or otherwise) charge. This pilot program will be available to incentivize six new units in Sherman County on a first-come, first-served basis.

The County also offers low- or no-interest construction loans to developers of rental housing that do not qualify, or only partially qualify, for

funding from a traditional housing lender. A developer could access both the loan program and incentive program. The County's loan would be repaid within a short period when permanent mortgages provide the capital to repay the construction loan. This program is not to compete with private sector lending.

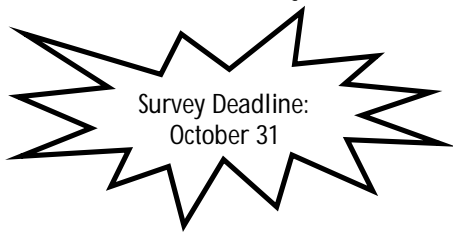
These programs are being offered in partnership with Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD), which also has unique loan funds set aside for the development of Attainable Housing, serving the middle housing market of 60-120% median family income. For more information about these programs, contact Jessica Metta, Sherman County's Economic Development Coordinator with MCEDD, at 541-296-2266 or jessica@mcedd.org.

Requirements to Qualify for Incentive:

- ⇒ Project is for construction of new rental housing
- ⇒ Housing unit(s) is located within Sherman County
- ⇒ Owner would pay property taxes on the finished project
- ⇒ Project agrees to sign an agreement with the County for at least a five-year period. Projects violating this agreement will be required to repay the funds to the County.

To find the application for the Sherman County Rental Housing Incentive Program, visit the Board of County Commissioners page on the Sherman County Website.

City Residents, Take the Broadband Survey!



Residents and businesses in Biggs Junction, Grass Valley, Moro, Rufus, and Wasco are encouraged to take a broadband satisfaction survey hosted by Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD). This survey is intended to gauge interest in improved Internet service and help better

understand the needs in the community related to Internet connectivity. Paper surveys are being mailed in city water bills and can be returned to your city hall, or you can take the survey online by October 31. A link to the survey can be found on the homepage of the Sherman County website at www.co.sherman.or.us.

The information collected in the surveys will assist the community in seeking proposals from private Internet providers to develop "off-ramps" to the fiber "highways" in the county so that

those in Sherman County's cities can access truly high-speed Internet service. For more information about broadband and this project, everyone is invited to attend two community information sessions with MCEDD. Each session will provide the same information. The meetings are Wednesday, October 11 at 6pm at Moro City Hall and Tuesday, October 17 at 6pm at Wasco City Hall. If you have questions about this effort, please contact city staff in your community or Jessica Metta with MCEDD at jessica@mcedd.org or by calling 541-296-2266.

2018 Primary Election Notice



Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, May 15, 2018, the Sherman County Clerk's Office will be conducting the 2018 Primary Election by mail. Candidates may file for office from September 7, 2017, until the deadline of 5:00pm on March 6, 2018. The following county offices will appear on the ballot:

PARTISAN OFFICE:

Major party candidates will be nominated for this office at the Primary and elected at the November 6, 2018 General Election:

County Commissioner,
Position 2 – 4 year term
(Current: Tom McCoy)

NONPARTISAN OFFICES:

Candidates for the following nonpartisan offices may be elected to office at the Primary:

County Judge – 6 year term
(Current: Gary Thompson)

County Assessor – 4 year term
(Current: Ross A. Turney)

District Attorney – 4 year term
(Current: Wade McLeod)

Candidates for the offices of County Judge and District Attorney are required to file directly with the Oregon Secretary of State's office.

Candidates for the following nonpartisan office will be nominated at the Primary and elected at the November 6, 2018 General Election:

County Treasurer – 4 year term
(Current: Marnene Benson-Wood)

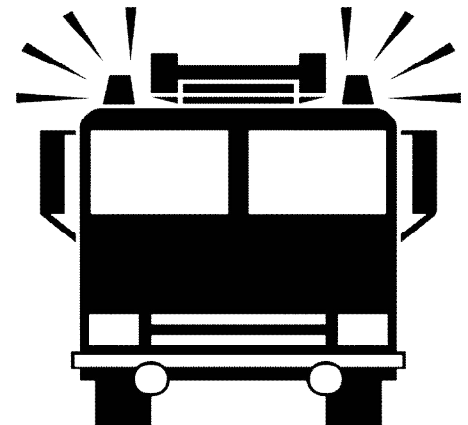
LOCAL PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSONS:

Precinct Committeeperson candidates may file for office between February 6, 2018, and 5:00pm March 6, 2018. These are 2 year terms and are elected at the Primary.

Forms and manuals are available on-line at the Oregon Secretary of State, Elections Division <http://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/laws-rules-publications.aspx>. Links to forms are also available on the Sherman County Clerk's web page: http://www.co.sherman.or.us/govt_clerk.asp, and forms are available at the Clerk's Office, which is located in the Courthouse at 500 Court Street, Moro, OR. Please call 541-565-3606 if you have questions.

-Jenine McDermid, Clerk

South Sherman Fire & Rescue Awarded FEMA Grant



South Sherman Fire and Rescue is very pleased to announce that we have been awarded a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant. This grant is called Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER). The SAFER Grant is a four-year award in the amount of \$360,500. Funds will be used for staffing, training fire personnel, and some training equipment.

As always, we encourage any community members who are interested in joining the fire district to reach out. We are prepared to work with you on finding the perfect spot for you in the district.

-Amber Kuettel, South Sherman Fire & Rescue

Sherman County Ambulance Service Frequently Asked Questions

In order to remain transparent with the citizens of Sherman County and to answer some questions you may have, I have put together a Q & A.

1. Is Sherman County Ambulance tax supported?

Absolutely not! In fact, we are very proud to report that Sherman County Ambulance has **NEVER** received tax dollars from the citizens of Sherman County. The ambulance is self-supported mostly from patient-transport revenues and a smaller portion from memberships.

2. What is the coverage area for Sherman County Ambulance Service?

We cover all of Sherman County, which is 831 square miles. Thankfully, South Sherman RFPD was able to step up and contract with the Oregon Raceway Park in Grass Valley to cover their events.

3. How many calls does the Ambulance Service respond to?

In 2016, Sherman County Ambulance responded to 201 calls. In 2017, as of September 1st, we have responded to 170 calls, which is about 30% higher than last year at this time. The calls are about 70% medical and 30% trauma.

4. What is the average response time for the Ambulance Service?

The response time is a measurement of time that starts from the initial dispatch until the ambulance is enroute to the scene. In 2016, our average response time was 7.33 minutes. This year, our response time as of

this date is 5.46 minutes. Both of these times are well within the guidelines set forth in our County and State approved ASA Plan.

5. Do the Ambulance Service personnel get paid?

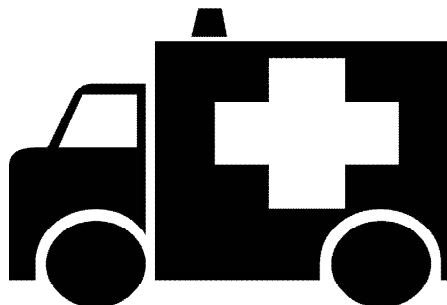
Yes they do. We have teams of three personnel who rotate one week on call. They are paid a modest stipend to be on call and are paid an hourly wage of \$12 per hour while on a call. The on call covers weekdays from 6 p.m. until the following morning at 4 a.m. and 24/7 on the weekends. The on call system was designed to allow personnel to go to their regular jobs during the weekdays. During the weekday, there are no personnel who are compensated to be available, but people do still respond.

6. How many personnel does the Ambulance Service have?

We have 1 RN, 2 EMT-Intermediates, 16 EMTs, 7 EMRs, and 3 Certified Drivers. These personnel live in Rufus, Wasco, Moro, Grass Valley, and Kent.

If you have any questions regarding Sherman County Ambulance or are interested in becoming trained to work on the ambulance, contact Shawn Payne at 541-565-3100.

-Shawn Payne, Emergency Services



Sherman Development League Grant/Loan Applications

Sherman Development League (SDL) grant application forms are now available for projects and/or programs in Sherman County. Grants can be applied for by 501(c)(3) and other non-profit organizations. Organizations that have received a grant from SDL are not eligible to apply until their current grant requirements have been met. Revolving loan funds are also available to for-profit entities and businesses.

Applications will be accepted until November 15, 2017, and grants will be awarded by February 1, 2018.

To receive appropriate grant/loan application forms, please submit a letter of request which includes:

- ◆ A brief description of your project
- ◆ State if the project is a capital expenditure, one-time program or pilot project, emergency assistance, or a loan request
- ◆ Identify the type of organization requesting funding

Mail or email requests to:

Sherman Development League, Inc.
P.O. Box 11
Moro, OR 97039
shermandevelopmentleague@gmail.com

-Melva Thomas, SDL
541-442-5488
shermandevelopmentleague@gmail.com



Thank you to the Sherman County residents who bought tickets and came to the Sherman County Senior & Community Center Prime Rib Dinner Fundraiser on September 16, 2017. It was a huge success thanks to our amazing kitchen staff (Cindy, Bonne, Sheila, Joyce) and the people who came to enjoy! Thanks again!

—Jan Byram, Manager, Sherman County Senior & Community Center





SHERMAN
COUNTY



Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
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Permit No. 4

500 Court Street, P.O. Box 365
Moro, Oregon 97039
<http://www.co.sherman.or.us>

Postal Patron

Three Easy Steps to Recycle!

Do Not Recycle:

- Carbon paper
- Food-contaminated packaging
- Clear “clamshells” (berry, bakery or battery packages)
- Frozen food boxes or food stained paper
- Label backing sheets
- Paper towels, tissue, napkins
- Photographs
- Plastic-coated envelopes
- Wax, plastic or foil-coated paper
- Styrofoam.

First Sort: Commingled:

- PAPER - white and colored paper (staples OK) newspapers, magazines, catalogs, junk mail, phone books, paperback books, spiral-bound notebooks, shredded paper in a paper bag, cereal & cracker style boxes (liner removed), cardboard tubes, paper bags, egg cartons, milk cartons & juice boxes.
- PLASTIC - plastic bottles with a neck, plastic tubs 6 oz. to 5 gal, plant containers 4 inches & larger.
- METAL - aluminum cans, tin cans (flattened), clean aluminum foil & foil baking pans, empty aerosol cans (discard cap).

Second Sort:

- All glass bottles & jars - rinsed. No lids.

Third Sort:

- Corrugated cardboard - flattened.

All items should be clean & rinsed with lids removed & flattened if possible.



Reduce Reuse Recycle

The Solid Waste Transfer Site:

72526 Welk Road
Open every 2nd & 4th Saturday
10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

The Dalles Disposal
1317 West 1st Street -The Dalles, 97058
(541) 298-5149

Self-Haul Recycling Depot Schedule:

- Moro 9 am - 4:30 pm: 2nd Friday & Saturday
- Wasco 9 am - 4:30 pm: 3rd Friday & Saturday
- Rufus 9 am - 4:30 pm: 4th Friday & Saturday
- Grass Valley 1-3 pm: Monday & Tuesday weekly