



# T O D A Y

RESOURCES AND INFORMATION FOR MARION COUNTY RESIDENTS

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### What's Happening

A look ahead at events and activities in Marion County.

## 2014 Highlights

### County Goal 1.

#### Operational Efficiency and Quality Service.

Provide efficient, effective, and responsive government through stewardship and accountability.

#### Courthouse Square Reopened



After eighteen months of construction, the Courthouse Square office building and transit mall were reopened to the public in April 2014. The project proceeded on schedule and within budget restoring a valuable asset to our community. Remediation included repairs essential to

the structural integrity of the complex, seismic upgrades, refreshed interior finishes, and upgraded passenger waiting areas on the transit mall. Ten county departments are now united in one location providing convenient access to services for county residents.

In January 2015, Marion County and Salem-Keizer Transit were presented with the Regional Cooperative Project Award from the Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments. Structural Preservation Systems, LLC, the design-build contractor, received an Award of Excellence from the International Concrete Repair Institute for the project in November 2014.

#### New Commissioner Appointed

Following the retirement of Patti Milne, the board of commissioners selected former State Representative Kevin Cameron from four nominees to fill the Position 1 vacancy. Commissioner Cameron was sworn in on June 2, 2014. He was elected to his first four year term in November 2014. Commissioner Cameron brings more than 40 years of experience in the hospitality industry as an employee, manager, entrepreneur and business owner. He served more than nine years in the Oregon State Legislature representing the residents of House District 19.

#### Solid Waste Ordinance Amendments

The commissioners took immediate action to amend the county's Solid Waste Ordinance after learning that fetal tissue may have been included in deliveries of medical waste to the Marion County Waste-to-Energy Facility. The amendment also requires a new certification process for contractors utilizing the waste-to-energy facility. The county temporarily suspended acceptance of all medical waste until new certification procedures were in place.

### County Goal 2.

#### Growth and Infrastructure

Provide leadership that addresses the continual growth and increasing diversity of Marion County's population and focuses resources on best meeting the needs of residents and supporting business.

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## A Message from the Board of Commissioners

We are honored to serve as your Marion County Board of Commissioners. We appreciate this opportunity to report back to you about our progress and challenges on important issues that affect the lives of Marion County residents. As commissioners, we seek to enhance the health, safety, and livability of Marion County's communities.



*Commissioners Sam Brentano, Janet Carlson and Kevin Cameron.*

Marion County is served by 15 departments with more than 1,500 dedicated full-time and part-time employees. These employees are responsible for delivering essential services such as public safety, road and bridge maintenance, public and mental health services, property assessment, building inspections, and elections.

Each year we review our strategic priorities and assess our performance as a public service provider. In this newsletter you will find examples of how we have worked to meet our priorities and goals. While we cannot include everything, we hope the information here gives you a sense of what Marion County is about.

We encourage participation in the public process and your feedback is always welcome. Board sessions are held every Wednesday at 9 a.m. in the Senator Hearing Room at Courthouse Square, 555 Court Street NE, in Salem. Time is set aside for public comment at the beginning of each meeting. We also look forward to communicating with you on Facebook (Marion County Board of Commissioners) and Twitter (@MarionCo\_Board).

For more information about county programs and services or to review upcoming board session agendas, visit [www.co.marion.or.us](http://www.co.marion.or.us). To contact commissioners personally, call (503) 588-5212 or email [commissioners@co.marion.or.us](mailto:commissioners@co.marion.or.us).

We hope you enjoy our third annual issue of Marion County TODAY.

# 2014 Highlights

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## Stormwater Management Program

In order to comply with the federal Clean Water Act, the county established a Stormwater Management Program to administer infrastructure improvements, drainage system maintenance, water pollution reduction, and community outreach. At the direction of the commissioners, staff worked closely with an advisory committee and businesses to establish a Stormwater Maintenance Fee to finance the federally mandated program. The final proposed fee was substantially less than that initially proposed with a low cost billing option that includes an annual assessment on property tax statements versus costly monthly billing.

## Noise Ordinance Amendments

As the result of concerns brought forward by a constituent, the commissioners reviewed and amended the county Noise Ordinance. The revised ordinance removes the exemption from noise and loud music played at night for commercial uses inside Salem's urban growth boundary. After receiving testimony from residents outside the urban growth boundary, the board followed up by additionally amending the noise ordinance to expand the exemption for noise and loud music outside of the urban growth boundary.

## Planning and Building Inspection

In 2014, Marion County's Planning Division issued 139 land use decisions with more than 90 percent issued in 30 days or less. Planning additionally processed more than 100 state agency permits including water rights, Department of Environmental Quality burn permits, Department of State Lands fill permits, liquor licenses, and DMV licenses. During the same period, Building Inspection issued 6,612 permits.

## County Goal 3.

### Public Safety

**Pursue a safe and secure community by protecting the people, property, and economy of Marion County.**

### Medical Marijuana

The Board of Commissioners, in conjunction with the Sheriff and District Attorney, approved a resolution opposing the legalization of marijuana and later approved an ordinance banning medical marijuana dispensary facilities in the unincorporated areas of Marion County. The ordinance included provisions for parties meeting rigorous guidelines to apply for a ban exemption permit that emphasize public health and safety. The board subsequently implemented a one year moratorium on new medical marijuana dispensaries within the county's unincorporated area.

### Countywide Justice Court Opened

The consolidated Marion County Justice Court opened its doors to the public on July 1, 2014. The new Justice Court serves all of Marion County and handles traffic offenses, small civil claims, and violations of county ordinances. The Portland Road location offers improved access to public transportation, closer proximity to the freeway, and evening court sessions.

### Marion County Reentry Initiative

Beginning in 2009, the Marion County Reentry Initiative (MCR) began coordinated reentry services which included both pre- and post-release services aimed to reduce recidivism among medium and high-risk offenders. The post-prison recidivism rate for Marion County dropped to 14% in 2014, which is the lowest on record. Previous recidivism rates were as high as 36% in 2002. While a decrease in recidivism is one measure of success, this decrease translates into an increase of people obtaining employment, maintaining sobriety, reuniting with their children, obtaining stable housing, and living a pro-social and crime free lifestyle.

The 6<sup>th</sup> annual Giving People a Second Chance community breakfast was held on October 29<sup>th</sup> and raised more than \$17,000 in support of the De Muniz Resource Center's client support fund which assists clients with education, employment, and basic needs.

### Sheriff's Office Accreditation

In August 2014, the Marion County Sheriff's Office received their Certificate of Accreditation from the Oregon Accreditation Alliance. The accreditation process is used to assist law enforcement agencies with evaluating and

improving their performance. It is professional recognition that an organization's operation, management, and policies and procedures meet or exceed law enforcement best practices. The Sheriff's Office is among only 20 percent of Oregon's law enforcement agencies that have achieved accreditation.

## County Goal 4.

### Economic Development

**Demonstrate a supportive attitude toward employers, business, and property owners that promotes economic development and high standards of livability in Marion County.**

The Board of Commissioners initiated formation of a county Extension and 4-H Service District and approved an order referring the matter to the voters for the May 2015 election. If approved, the district will serve all of Marion County in cooperation with the OSU Extension Service. The proposed service district will provide services for agricultural and forestry businesses and youth and families through research and educational activities. All 20 of Marion County's cities voted in support of the proposed district.

## County Goal 5.

### Transportation

**Provide a safe, efficient and reliable transportation system and maintain vital infrastructure in the best condition available resources allow.**

In 2014, Marion County Public Works Department completed a major urban improvement by adding turn lanes and a traffic signal at the Ward Drive and Fisher Road intersection and included sidewalks and bike lanes on Ward Drive between Lancaster Drive and Portland Road. Public Works is continuing work to the much-needed new Whipper Road Bridge over the Perrin Irrigation Canal in Turner. The new bridge has been constructed and is in use, but due to mandated in-water work periods, the old load-limited bridge will not be removed until June.

## County Goal 6.

### Health and Community Services

**Promote the overall health of people in Marion County by improving the delivery of quality health services and supporting community-based prevention efforts.**

### Health Accreditation

The Marion County Health Department became the first in Oregon to achieve national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board. The national accreditation program sets standards against which the nation's more than 3,000 governmental public health departments can continuously improve the quality of their services and performance. To receive accreditation, a health department must undergo a rigorous, multi-faceted, peer-reviewed assessment process to ensure it meets or exceeds a set of quality standards and measures.

## County Goal 7.

### Emergency Management

**Proactively plan, review, and maintain a comprehensive emergency management program.**

### New Emergency Manager

Ed Flick joined Marion County in August 2014 as the new Emergency Management Director. Ed is working with state and other agencies to update and enhance the Marion County Emergency Operations Plan and county department plans for continuing services during an emergency.



# DID YOU know?

## Economic Development

Last year Marion County invested \$199,158 in local communities to promote economic development – helping local businesses create 102 new jobs.

## Marion County Fair

In 2014, 645 volunteers donated 6,580 hours to organize the Marion County Fair.

30,317 people attended the 2014 Marion County Fair.

## Dog Services

In 2014, the Marion County Dog Shelter reunited 717 lost dogs with their owners, 222 were adopted by new forever families, and 189 were placed with rescue organizations.

622 dogs benefited from low cost vaccines made possible by generous partnerships with local veterinary clinics.

## Marion County Reentry Initiative

96 students participated in the Student Opportunity for Achieving Results Program, or SOAR program, with a 58% completion rate compared to 45% for other treatment programs.

1,189 clients visited the DeMuniz Reentry Resource Center.

## Public Works

Marion County maintains 1,118 miles of roadway, 147 bridges and 28,000 signs.

In 2014, Public Works performed 8.6 miles of pavement overlays, 5.7 miles of slurry seal, 24.5 miles of chip seal, and 1.9 miles of double chip seal.

Marion County residents and businesses achieved the highest recovery rate in the county's history in the most recent Department of Environmental Quality report. Collectively our community recycled and composted 61.2% of all waste generated.

## Employee Giving

Marion County employees generously donated \$22,934.71 in support of United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley. Marion County has consistently been recognized as one of the top 25 employee giving campaigns in the Willamette Valley.

## Parks

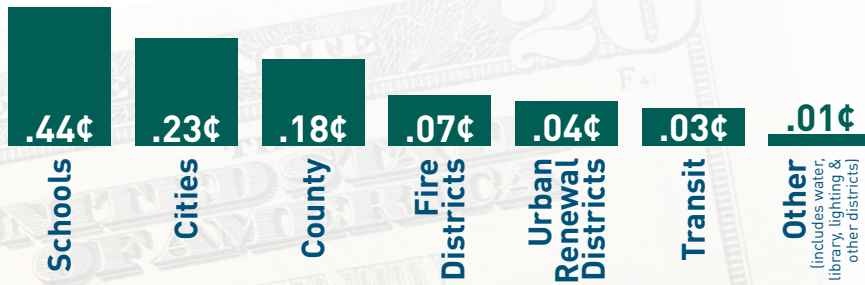
Marion County opened its first campground at Bear Creek Park on the North Fork of the Santiam River. The campground, which is open from May 1 to October 31, proved to be a big success with more than 300 campers for the season and 100% capacity from the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend through the end of August.

# Your Property Tax Dollar

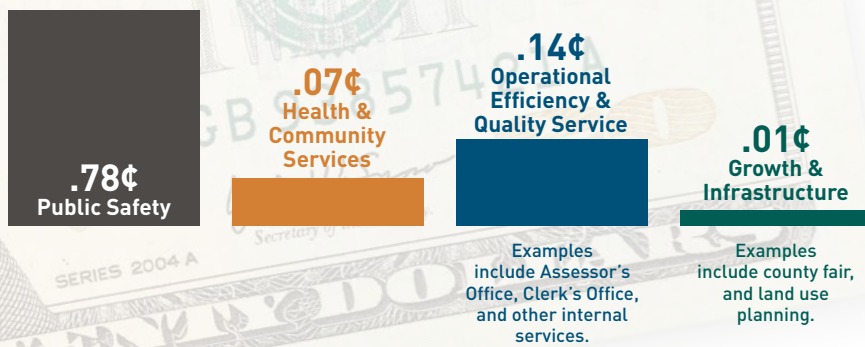
## How is it distributed? How is it spent?

Although you write your property tax check to Marion County, only some of the money goes to the county. The county collects the taxes and then distributes funds to 67 taxing districts.

On average, each \$1 paid by a Marion County taxpayer is distributed like so:



Property tax dollars fund Marion County's general fund – our most flexible revenue source. The general fund operating budget is spent like so:



## Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget

Adopting an annual budget is one of the most important financial responsibilities for county government. Marion County's budget serves as a financial plan that demonstrates how we intend to carry out essential public services. It is a translation into dollars and cents of the personnel, materials, services, capital outlays, and other items needed to deliver services to our residents.

The fiscal year 2014-15 adopted budget of \$370,830,876 continues Marion County's long-term commitment to sustainable programs. The budget includes a general fund of \$82,390,826 for discretionary spending and \$288,440,050 for all other funds. Budget drivers include rebounding property tax revenue, completion of the Courthouse Square project, lower state and federal revenues, and PERS and other benefits.

As a priority service, the county allocates 78% of its general fund operating revenue to public safety services. This includes support for the Sheriff's Office, District Attorney, Juvenile Department, and Justice Courts. The general fund also supports assessment and taxation; community services; licensing, recording, and elections; and the treasury.

The majority of non-general fund revenues are federal, state, and other agencies' contracts and grants that by law must be spent for specific purposes. Examples include Oregon Health Authority grants and contracts for mental and public health services; gas taxes dedicated to road construction and maintenance; and video lottery funds for economic development purposes.

In 2014, Marion County received the Certificate of Award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for excellence in financial reporting for the thirteenth consecutive year and received GFOA's prestigious Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the third consecutive year.

For information on Marion County's upcoming fiscal year 2015-16 budget process or to view the complete fiscal year 2014-15 adopted budget visit [www.co.marion.or.us](http://www.co.marion.or.us).

# Marion County



## All-Stars 2014

Juvenile Justice Professional of the Year  
Hailey Rutter

Surveyor of the Year  
Mark Riggins

Oregon County Counsel Association Laurence R. Kessel Memorial Award  
Gloria Roy

2014 Crisis Intervention Team Agency Executive Undersheriff Troy Clausen

Regional Cooperative Project Award  
Courthouse Square Remediation Project

Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments

Co-recipient: Salem-Keizer Transit

Top 10 Healthiest Employers in Oregon

5th consecutive year

Portland Business Journal Ranked 4th (500-1499 employees)

Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

Jail Commander of the Year  
Sheila Lorance

Parole & Probation Deputy of the Year

Deputy Deanine Benitz

Parole & Probation Supervisor of the Year

Lt. Kevin Karvandi

Distinguished Service Award

Lt. Megan Gonzalez

Government Finance Officers Association

Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

3rd consecutive year

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

13th consecutive year

County Awards

Troy Thompson Award

Julia Alpernas  
Finance Department

Vision Award

Pam Hutchinson  
Health Department

Chief Administrative Officer Teamwork Award

Public Health Accreditation Site Review Team

Lyndsie Schwarz

Carolyn Stegall

Jennifer Eskridge

County Fair Work Force

Don Newell  
Public Works

John McComber  
Sheriff's Office

Matthew Paton  
Sheriff's Office

Customer Service Award

Allycia Weathers  
Sheriff's Office

Kendra Stafford  
Health Department

John Raymond  
Information Technology Dept.

Jodie DeMoe  
Sheriff's Office

Marri Fluher  
District Attorney's Office

Kim Healy  
District Attorney's Office

Tina Gushard  
Sheriff's Office

Krista Ulm  
Community Services Dept.

Denise Clark  
Community Services Dept.



Surveyor of the Year Mark Riggins is pictured with the Board of Commissioners and Public Works Director Alan Haley.

# What's Happening 2015

A look ahead at Events and Activities in Marion County



## March

### Garden Compost Sales Begin

*Fresh Start Market*

## April

10-11

### Upcycle Oregon

*Oregon State Capitol*

Upcycled Artwork, Fashion Show, Waste Reduction Education, and Family-friendly Green Activities. Free and Open to the Public.

Artist Reception: April 10 - 4 p.m.

Main Event: April 11 - Noon to 4 p.m.

[www.upcycleoregon.com](http://www.upcycleoregon.com)

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### Earth Day Fair

*The Oregon Garden*

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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### Save the Food Challenge Kick-off

Take part in the save the food challenge, use the tools, save the food, and save the world one food at a time.

[www.savethefood.net](http://www.savethefood.net)

## May

1-3

### Spring Plant & Hanging Basket Sale

*Fresh Start Market*

## June

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### Emergency Management Drill

### Conducting Damage Assessments

2-4

### Marion County Budget Committee meets

[www.co.marion.or.us](http://www.co.marion.or.us) for schedule

## July

1-4

### St. Paul Rodeo

9-12

### Marion County Fair

*Oregon State Fairgrounds*

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### Striking Out Substance Abuse

*Volcanoes Stadium*

## August

4

### National Night Out

## September

17-20

### Mt. Angel Oktoberfest

## October

### Art Calendar Contest

Entries must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 02, 2015

[www.mcrecycles.net](http://www.mcrecycles.net)

### Giving People a Second Chance Community Breakfast

*Marion County Reentry Initiative*

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### Great Shakeout Earthquake Drill

18-24

### Pacific NW Winter Weather Awareness Week

For information on these and other community events, please visit [www.co.marion.or.us](http://www.co.marion.or.us)

#### Commissioners

Position 1 — Kevin Cameron

Position 2 — Janet Carlson

Position 3 — Sam Brentano

#### Weekly Board Sessions

Wednesdays at 9 a.m.

Senator Hearing Room

555 Court Street NE, Salem

Opportunity for Public Comment

Visit [www.co.marion.or.us](http://www.co.marion.or.us)

for weekly agenda

#### Contact Us

Marion County Board

of Commissioners Office

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Salem, OR 97309

#### Website

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503-588-5212

#### Fax

503-588-5237

#### Twitter

@MarionCo\_Board

#### Facebook

Marion County Board of

Commissioners

#### About the Board of Commissioners

The three members of the Board of Commissioners are the elected representatives of all persons residing in Marion County. The board sets policy for the administration and operation of county government.

Marion County operates as a general law county within the framework of the Oregon Constitution and Oregon Revised Statutes. The board is responsible for all three branches of county government; legislative, executive, and quasi-judicial.

Formal board sessions are held weekly for official action to adopt ordinances, resolutions and orders pertaining to county policy, operations and administration.

In addition, the boards serves as a primary mechanism for encouraging citizen participation and input to local government through advisory boards, commissions, committees and provides frequent opportunities for individuals and organizations to comment on matters of public concern.