



FALL 2026 NEWSLETTER

Philomath Community Services | *People Helping People*

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Fall is calming but brings a new wave of momentum at PCS. Even with challenges like the water treatment plant construction, our team has kept operations running smoothly by consolidating processes and strengthening coordination across all services.

We are entering the season with expanded leadership: Rich Saalsaa and Rochelle “Rocky” Rainey have joined the PCS Board, and Helen Thaler is now leading volunteer coordination with energy and clarity. Their contributions are already making a noticeable impact.

This year’s Celebrating Service 2026 was another standout success, showing how strongly Philomath continues to support People Helping People. As we move into autumn, we are focused on carrying that momentum into our upcoming activities and seasonal outreach.

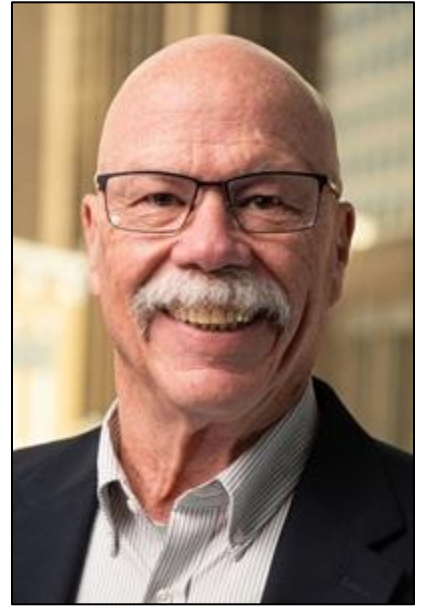
Thank you for being part of PCS and part of this community.



New Board Members

We're excited to welcome Rochelle Rainey (left) and Rich Saalsaa (right) to the PCS Board. Rochelle is a lifelong Corvallis local with deep family roots in the region and a career in international public health and water/sanitation. Now a long-time Philomath resident, she brings both expertise and heart to community service.

Rich joins us with more than fifty years of volunteer work and two decades of board experience. A Philomath City Councilor and active member of the Lions Club and Philomath Fire & Rescue, he brings steady, hands-on leadership shaped by a lifetime of service.



Welcome, Helen!

We are thrilled to announce the onboarding of Helen Thaler, our new Volunteer Coordinator. We would continue the introduction, but here is a message from Helen herself:

Hello! I am the new volunteer coordinator for Philomath Community Services. I have been a resident of Philomath for 38 years and raised 2 children here. I recently retired and am now able to give time to this worthy organization.

My goal as the coordinator is to build a team of volunteers sufficient to staff June's Kids Closet and Nancy's Food Panty year-round, with people to spare. We want people to enjoy volunteering and to give as much time as they want, and to never feel pressured to serve just because the need is greater than the resources. We will strive for regular scheduled volunteers with backups for when plans change.



Thanks to volunteers like Helen, PCS operations can do a tremendous amount of work on extremely low overhead. We look forward to working with Helen and other neighbors!

Featured Donor: Bill Piercy

This past season, the Marys River Grange recently held a Celebration of Life for longtime member Bill Piercy, a man remembered for his spirit of adventure, kindness, and the joy he brought to every gathering. Bill was part of the Grange for longer than anyone could recall, and stories shared in his honor made clear how deeply he shaped the community. In tribute to Bill's legacy of generosity, friends and family donated 377 pounds of food to PCS, turning remembrance into compassion. It was a beautiful example of People Helping People.

Philomath Pride

PCS was proud to join Philomath Pride this June, sharing raffle baskets, seed packets, bubble wands, and information while collecting food donations. It was a joyful day of connection and visibility for our community.



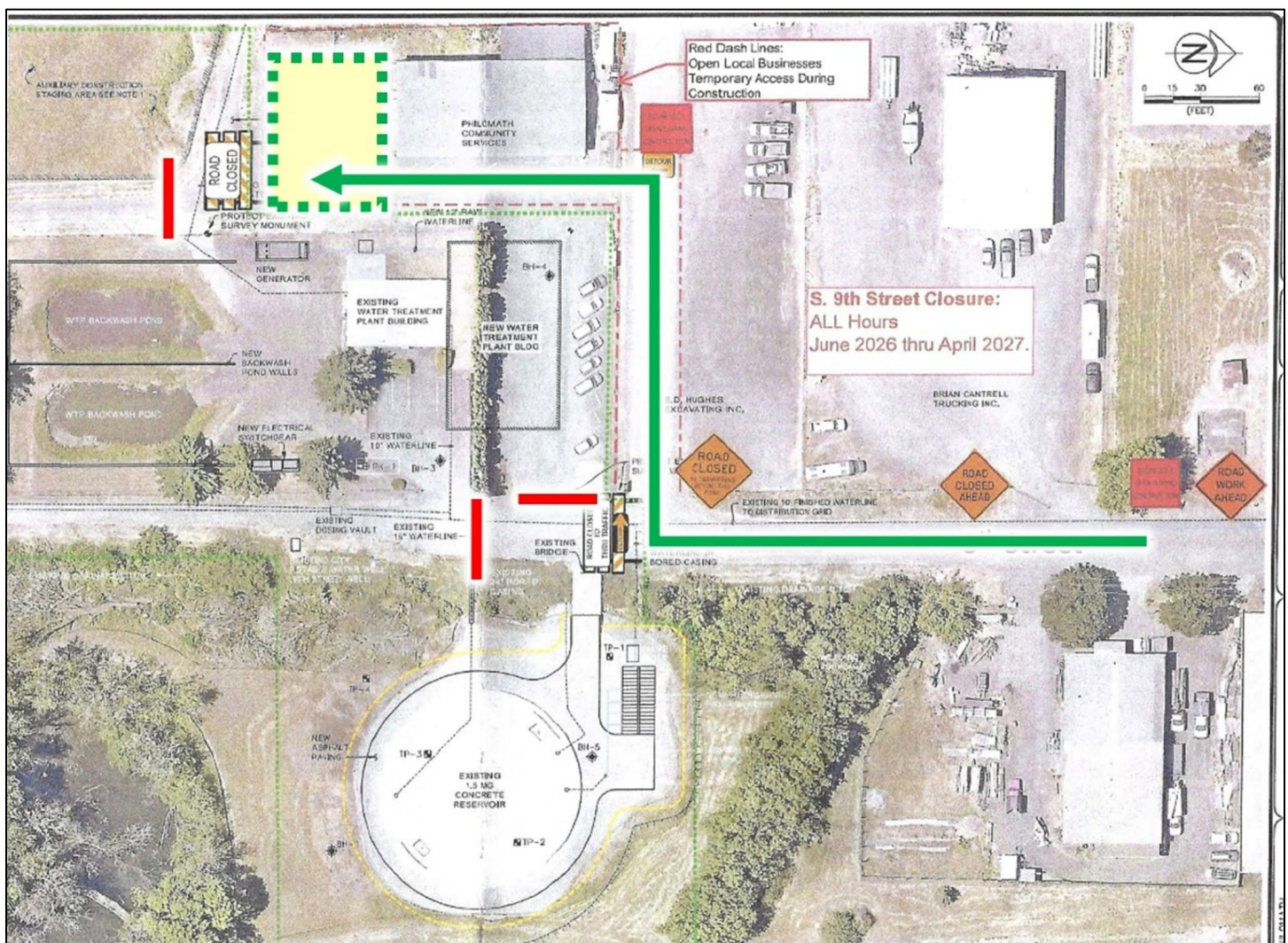
A Parade of Neighbors

Thank you to everyone who cheered us on at the Frolic & Rodeo Grand Parade. Seeing so many familiar faces reminds us how deeply this community sustains PCS's work.



Construction Update: Access & Safety at PCS

With water-treatment-plant construction underway, access around PCS has shifted. All entry is through the temporary corridor provided by Gerding, and parking has moved to parallel spaces in front of the building. Please keep handicap spots clear and stay aware in this active construction zone. Thank you for your patience as improvements continue.



PCS at the Coalition Gathering

At the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition's Quarterly Gathering, Executive Director Sharon Thornberry highlighted the social side of sustainability — meeting basic needs, building resilience, and supporting neighbors. It was a powerful reminder that community care is central to a sustainable future. Hear the presentation at [timestamp 59:58 of this video](#).



Another Successful Celebration of Service

Thank you to every sponsor, donor, and attendee who made Celebrating Service 2026 possible. Your generosity strengthens PCS programs and the neighbors we serve each day. Event proceedings are available online for those who wish to revisit the evening.

[Watch a video of proceedings here.](#)



And great thanks to our 2026 sponsors who helped make it possible! We are honored to have support from our local Community Champions (\$1000-donors): David M. & Linda Low, At Home Property Management, Lizzie Marsters, McGuire Mechanism, LLC, Philomath Frolic, Philomath Pharmacy, and Russell Attorney Services.

Big thanks to our Hunger Heroes (\$500 level): Corvallis Sport & Spine and Russell Contract Cutting. And shoutout to our Sprouts (\$250 level): Benton County Schools Credit Union, Bob & Laurie Lewis, Jean Goul, Rochelle Rainey, and Sharon Thornberry.

**David M. & Linda
Low**



**Philomath
Pharmacy**

**Russell Attorney
Services**



Lizzie Marsters



At Home
Property Management



**CORVALLIS
SPORT & SPINE
PHYSICAL THERAPY**

Russell Contract Cutting

Sharon Thornberry



Bob & Laurie Lewis

Rochelle Rainey

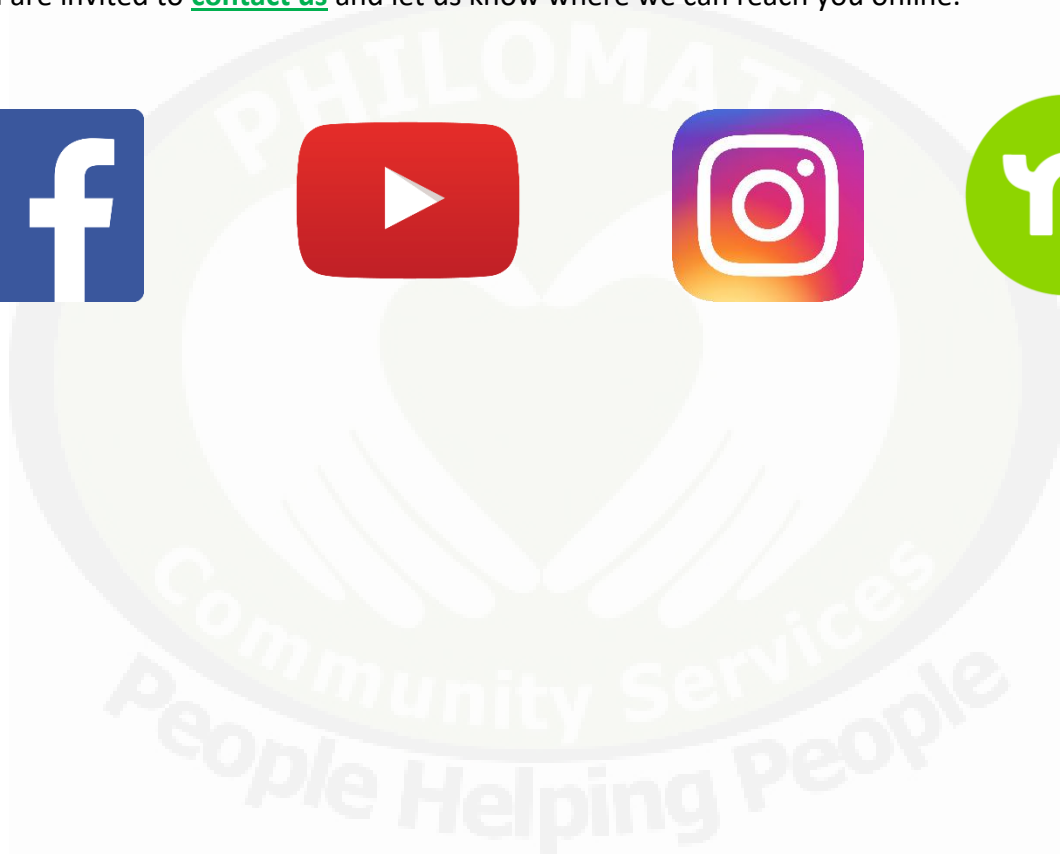
Jean Goul

Have a cozy fall!



Connect with PCS Online

PCS may be found online at Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, and Nextdoor. What is your preferred online platform? You are invited to [contact us](#) and let us know where we can reach you online.



Thank you for reading!



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Philomath Community
Services (PCS)?



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