



# Marion County **TODAY** from Your Commissioners

FALL 2023



*Left to Right: Commissioner Kevin Cameron, Commissioner Colm Willis, and Commissioner Danielle Bethell.*

## **A Note from Your Marion County Commissioners**

Fall is here, students have returned to school, the days are getting shorter, the air is crisp, harvest season is coming to a close, and we are starting to turn our attention to celebrations with friends and family that are just around the corner. In this time, we are happy to bring you another update on what's going on in your local county government.

This issue will highlight infrastructure updates in Brooks-Hopmere and around the county, what's open and what's closed in the Santiam Canyon and the North Fork Corridor, an update on behavioral health resources for county residents in crisis, and an exciting first for the SOAR program in our county.

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## **Un mensaje de la junta de comisionados**

El otoño ya está aquí, los estudiantes han vuelto a la escuela, los días se hacen más cortos, el aire es fresco, la temporada de cosecha está llegando a su fin, y estamos empezando a centrar nuestra atención en las celebraciones con amigos y familiares que están a la vuelta de la esquina. En este tiempo, estamos encantados de traerle otra actualización sobre lo que está pasando en su gobierno local del condado.

Este número destacará las actualizaciones de infraestructura en Brooks-Hopmere y alrededor del condado, lo que está abierto y lo que está cerrado en el Cañón Santiam y el Corredor North Fork, una actualización de los recursos de salud conductual para

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## A Note from Your Marion County Commissioners

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We recognize this newsletter cannot cover every area of interest to the community, and we hope that you will follow our news blog ([marioncountynews.org](http://marioncountynews.org)) and our social media. We take our role as your representatives seriously, and we want to hear from you. If you have any questions or concerns, please email us at [commissioners@co.marion.or.us](mailto:commissioners@co.marion.or.us), or call **503-588-5212**.

As always, thank you for allowing us to serve.

Sincerely,

Your Marion County Board of Commissioners  
Colm Willis, *Chair*  
Kevin Cameron, *Commissioner*  
Danielle Bethell, *Commissioner*  
Jan Fritz, *CAO*

## Un mensaje de la junta de comisionados

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los residentes del condado en crisis, y una emocionante primera vez para el programa SOAR en nuestro condado.

Reconocemos que este boletín no puede cubrir todas las áreas de interés para la comunidad, y esperamos que usted siga nuestro blog de noticias ([marioncountynews.org](http://marioncountynews.org)) y nuestros medios de comunicación social. Nos tomamos muy en serio nuestro papel como sus representantes y queremos conocer su opinión. Si tiene alguna pregunta o duda, envíenos un correo electrónico a [commissioners@co.marion.or.us](mailto:commissioners@co.marion.or.us), o llame al **503-588-5212**.

Como siempre, gracias por permitirnos servirles.

Sinceramente,

Su Junta de Comisionados del Condado de Marion  
Colm Willis, *Chair*  
Kevin Cameron, *Commissioner*  
Danielle Bethell, *Commissioner*  
Jan Fritz, *CAO*

## Opportunity Awaits

Marion County Sheriff's Office is now accepting applications. Don't miss out on the opportunity of a lifetime - discover what we have to offer and apply today. To learn more about our exciting opportunities and start your application, head over to [GoMCSO.com](http://GoMCSO.com)!

**Now Hiring**

**PROFESSIONALISM**

**HUMILITY**

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## Water Infrastructure Changes Coming to Brooks-Hopmere

“We think this is really going to be the next area for growth in Marion County, so laying the foundation to support that future growth with one-time federal dollars is something we strongly support,” said Commissioner Willis, referring to the Brooks-Hopmere area.

On August 10, the Board of Commissioners approved the search for a construction executive to manage a project that will upgrade both the drinking and wastewater infrastructure in Brooks. Brooks-Hopmere is the largest unincorporated area in Marion County, and it is also a community that is expected to see significant economic development in the coming years. One deterrent to this growth is the lack of infrastructure to support the types of businesses that can bring jobs to the community. For that reason, using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars to help improve outdated or insufficient infrastructure can benefit the community.



*A building on the Chemeketa Brooks campus houses a well pump servicing the Brooks-Hopmere area.*

The total project utilizes approximately \$14.8 million in one-time federal ARPA dollars, allocated to the project in last year’s fiscal budget.

Of that \$14.8 million allocated for updated infrastructure, \$9.8 will be used to construct a new well-based water supply, storage and distribution system in Brooks to replace the Chemeketa Community College water source. The remaining \$5 million will be used to expand the existing sewer plant to provide the processing capacity needed to accommodate the increased sewer flow and concentration of an expanded waste collection system, including the construction of a



*A waste water treatment lagoon located in Brooks.*

pump station, manholes, and new gravity and pressure main connections.

Funding for all ARPA-funded projects is required to be used by the end of 2026.

While Brooks-Hopmere is the largest community receiving these updates, the County as a whole dedicated approximately \$25 Million to update sewer and septic systems in multiple cities and unincorporated communities across the county, including: Aumsville, Aurora, Gates, Hubbard, Mill City, Mount Angel, Turner, Stayton, Jefferson, Donald, St. Paul, and Brooks.



*These hydrants outside the Brooks fire station are part of the water infrastructure being upgraded in the community.*

“This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to be able to invest these funds in such a short period of time,” said Commissioner Danielle Bethell. “We are creating generational changes that will support the community as it continues to grow for decades to come.”



You can view all ARPA-funded projects across the county and current expenditures at <https://arpa-marioncounty.hub.arcgis.com/>, or by scanning the adjacent QR code.



## North Fork Road Open to the Public

North Fork Road is now officially open to the public. This summer, Marion County Public Works has completed wildfire recovery projects to provide a safer roadway corridor, including resurfacing the road, replacing and installing new guardrail, and replacing and installing new road signs.

## Parks, Campgrounds, Recreational Sites Remain Closed

Although public access will be open to North Fork Road, most public parks will remain closed. This includes all parks, campgrounds, and recreational sites operated by Marion County, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), US Forest Service (USFS), and Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF).

The affected agencies have been working through challenges to get these lands reopened for public use. The Marion County Parks Department is currently using a phased approach to reopen parks as quickly as possible. Bear Creek and Salmon Falls Parks will have day use reopening in late Spring 2024. Construction will start Summer 2024 for campgrounds to open in 2025 or 2026.

North Fork Park will remain closed through 2024. Although Marion County operates this park, most of the property is owned by BLM, which still must remove hazard trees before repairs can be made to the entrance and facilities damaged in the wildfire.



*Commissioners Kevin Cameron, Colm Willis, and Danielle Bethell inspecting the pool at Salmon Creek Falls in the North Fork.*

Marion County is responsible for approximately 15 miles of North Fork Road, extending from OR-22 to a location just past Salmon Falls Park, where it turns to USFS jurisdiction. A gate will remain in place at the beginning of the USFS road while they replace a bridge and complete the necessary repairs to reopen popular areas such as Opal Creek, Three Pools, and Shady Cove Campground. Please continue to check with BLM, USFS, and ODF for reopening status of other campgrounds, recreational sites, trails, forests, and non-county roads in the North Fork Recreational Corridor.

## North Fork Road No Parking Areas

In your future visits, you will see changes in an effort to help improve public safety and emergency vehicle access throughout the recreational corridor. Red striping on the



*Damage from the wildfires surrounding the North Fork Recreational Corridor.*



*Red striping now indicates where you cannot park on or near the road shoulder.*

pavement will indicate where you cannot park on the shoulder or near the roadway. If you park along the red stripe, you may receive a parking citation.

### **Please Be Safe and Respectful**

While we are excited to have North Fork Road reopened to the public, please remember to make safe and respectful choices. Due to vegetation lost in the wildfire, landscape and river access points have changed. Areas that you once used may not have the same stable banks. Potentially large debris may have changed the flows of the river. Even before the fire, there were limitations in this area due to limited cell coverage and difficulties for emergency service access. Please be safe and use common sense.

Remember that while this area is beautiful and fun to enjoy for your recreational uses, there are residents with privately owned lands throughout this corridor. Green and red signs have been replaced to remind the public where there is and isn't public access. Please respect the property owners and their losses in this wildfire. Citations could be issued to those trespassing on private property.

Lastly, this area has lost so much of the old vegetation and it's hard to imagine how long it will take to return to the lush surroundings we once had. That being said, Marion County Public Works looks toward a bright future and has been replanting. We are asking all of us to be respectful of our new plants and landscape. It takes years for these plants to reestablish and regrow and this area cannot return to its beautiful potential without our respect and care.

## **Marion County Rebrands to Behavioral Health Crisis Center and Increases Services**

“You can almost see the emergency room door from our front door,” said Ann-Marie Bandfield, Behavioral Health Program Manager for Marion County. “Being close to those services for individuals who need it is fundamentally important to us.”

Bandfield was speaking of the new county health facility on Commercial St. SE that will consolidate the county's rebranded Behavioral Health Crisis Center (formerly the Psychiatric Crisis Center) services under one roof. This is a 24/7 walk in crisis center, staffed by master/level/degree clinicians (referred to as Qualified Mental Health Professionals or QMHPs), Qualified Mental Health Associates (QMHAAs), Peer Support Partners, and some part-time staff. The primary purpose of the program is to provide an assessment to anyone who perceives themselves to be in a mental health crisis.



“We are committed to providing comprehensive and accessible mental health care to everyone in Marion County,” said Commissioner Danielle Bethell. “The new name and expanded services will make it easier for people to get the help they need when they need it.”

The need for increased resources to residents in crisis has been growing for years.

“During COVID-19, it became apparent we did not have enough space and staff to service the behavioral health needs we were facing,” said Bandfield. “This new building will allow for staff from our Silverton Road office, the office on the corner of University and Oak, the Mobile Crisis Unit, and LEAD navigators to work and collaborate in the same space.”

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### Marion County Rebrands to Behavioral Health Crisis Center and Increases Services

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The new facility will have two lobbies—one to assist families with children, and one for adults in crisis.

“The new adult lobby will be four times larger than we can currently offer, which is incredibly valuable for individuals in crisis who may need space to feel calm,” said Bandfield. “For someone hearing voices or experiencing psychosis or schizophrenia, space from others can be beneficial.”

When someone in crisis calls or visits the facility, they are assisted and screened by Marion County staff to determine the level of need. From there, they are directed to the care they need to address their immediate crisis, but they are also case managed in the longer term to address the underlying cause of their crisis.

“If someone’s in an acute mental health crisis, if they need to be hospitalized, we work with Salem Health to find a bed with them,” said Bandfield. “Sometimes we think hospitalization is the best thing for them, but oftentimes that doesn’t help connect them with the resources they need to help resolve the underlying causes of the crisis, be it a need for food benefits, or a bus pass to get to their appointments. It could also be connecting them with rehab, with sources for clothing, for housing, etc.

“It’s kind of endless the tools and resources we may need to connect them to.”

One area that has continually expanded is transitional treatment beds that the county manages. These are apartment units that the county rents and manages for individuals to transition from their crisis to temporary or permanent housing through community partner organizations. There are currently 24 of these transitional treatment beds across the county with another 11 becoming available in the future.

Of the individuals who come through the county’s treatment programs from the county jail, there is a 20% recidivism rate back to the jail for a 12-month period. Of those who fully engage in treatment, the recidivism rate



drops even further to 7% for the same window. This means that 9 out of 10 people don’t commit another crime after receiving these services.

Additionally, the center works proactively to collect law enforcement reports in the county and then engage with individuals who have had crisis-related interactions with police to provide resources and treatment before they experience another interaction. This allows for a reduction in the stream of individuals through the jail system and sets them up for success even sooner for those willing to engage.

“On average, we have served 4,800 people a year over the past 5 years,” said Bandfield. “Three thousand are through the door, 500 via phones, 500 are youth and family, 300 from the ER, mobile crisis is another 400-500.”

With those kinds of numbers being served, Bandfield said she was incredibly proud of their team, especially in their proactive outreach:

“We’ve always been a team where individuals want to come see our programs, and we say they can come see our building, but our staff is out in the field, and we’re very proud of the work our teams do to ensure they are reaching members in our community.”

The Behavioral Health Crisis Center is presently at 1118 Oak St until early 2024, when they will move all programs to 1234 Commercial St. They are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you or someone you know is in crisis or needs help, call 503-585-4949.

## First All-Female Cohort Graduates Marion County SOAR Program

The stage was lined with 13 graduates. This was the 43rd Student Opportunity for Achieving Results (SOAR) graduation, but there was something unique about this one. These 13 women represent the first all-woman class to complete the program.

Originally started in January 2010, SOAR is a 15-week program that encompasses elements of stability, structure, and supervision. SOAR provides cognitive programming, substance abuse treatment, transition/case planning, employment assistance, subsidy housing as needed, as well as referrals to social and educational services based on the unique needs and circumstances of the individual. Clients accepted into this program are considered students of Chemeketa Community College.



*Commissioner Danielle Bethell speaks to graduates at the 43rd Student Opportunity for Achieving Results (SOAR) graduation.*

“I’ve been part of it since the second class in 2010,” said Lieutenant Anna Jefferson with the Marion County Sheriff’s Office. “It’s just amazing to see the collaboration between treatment, the sheriff’s office, and Chemeketa and how coming together to provide wraparound services every day to individuals in recovery can make such a meaningful impact.”

Since inception of the SOAR program (January 2010), 58% of all program referrals graduate. Currently, the recidivism rate of SOAR graduates is at 39.8%, which is a considerably lower rate than other high-risk clients on supervision in Marion County during the same time frame. The reduction in recidivism to date, when compared with other medium-high-risk persons on supervision, had 30.3% fewer arrests, 12.7% fewer convictions for new crimes (misdemeanor or felony), 12.6% fewer new felony convictions, and 8.5% fewer new felony incarcerations.

“There are far more males than females on supervision in Marion County, and after seeing the success of the program with our male clients on supervision, we

wanted to provide the same thing for women on supervision,” said Lt. Jefferson. “And we also can’t use the same curriculum because it needs to be gender responsive. This was something where we needed to ramp up staff and prepare to launch the program.”

Lyuba Endicott, one of the graduates who was awarded a certificate for “most reliable and motivated” in the program shared about her experience.

“I was in a toxic relationship and feeling pretty stuck, and I was basically a functional addict,” said Endicott.

After multiple arrests, probation, and relapsing into drugs, she was living in a trap house and felt like she was coming to the end of her rope.

“At the time, I had a warrant out for my arrest and was hiding from the police, but my probation officer, Belle Cottrell, reached out to me and offered for me to take a 15-week long intense program as an alternative to jail,” said Endicott.

She spent her first seven days in the program in a work center, where jail inmates are released to work during the day but are required to return at night. After the first seven days, she was released back into the community. Having nowhere else to go, she went back to the trap house she’d been staying at.

“You had to be 30 days clean to get accepted to transitional housing, so I worked for 30 days to stay clean while living in that trap house,” said Endicott. “That’s how badly I wanted it.

“I never missed a day of that program.”

Once she was clean for 30 days, Endicott was allowed to go to a transitional living house. After completing SOAR, Lyuba turned her sites to finding a career that allowed her to give back. On August 7, she started work as a kitchen aid at Bridgeway Recovery Services.

“It’s one of the most important jobs, because everybody needs to eat,” she laughed.

Reflecting on her time in the program, Endicott had one thing to say:

“If you don’t ask for help, nobody can help you. I did all the footwork to ask for help, but they gave me the resources to recover and get back into society. SOAR turned my old way of thinking into new thoughts of the way I want to live, and it works.”



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## Marion County Board of Commissioners Office

555 Court Street NE, Suite #5232  
PO Box 14500  
Salem, OR 97309



**YOU'RE INVITED**

**October 12, 2023**

*Reentry Breakfast*

**Giving People a Second Chance**

**Keizer Civic Center**  
930 Chemawa Rd NE Keizer, OR  
(Doors Open at 7:00 AM,  
Program Begins at 7:30 AM)

**For More Information, Contact:**  
Sarah Coutley  
503.589.3276  
mcric@co.marion.or.us



## Weekly Board Sessions

*Opportunity for public comment*

Wednesdays at 9 a.m.

555 Court Street NE | Senator Hearing Room | Salem, OR

Board sessions stream live at: [www.facebook.com/MarionCountyOR](https://www.facebook.com/MarionCountyOR)



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## Contact Us

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## Board of Commissioners and Chief Administrative Officer



**Colm Willis**  
*Chair*



**Kevin Cameron**  
*Commissioner*



**Danielle Bethell**  
*Commissioner*



**Jan Fritz**  
*Chief Administrative Officer*