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Expanding Services for Seniors

Bend's senior population will be receiving new and improved services as of August 15 of this year thanks to the unique collaboration among four local nonprofits. The United Senior Citizens of Bend (USCB), Bend Community Center (BCC), Central Oregon Council On Aging (COCOA), and the Bend Senior Center (owned and operated by Bend Parks and Recreation District).

"This is a unique opportunity to help all involved organizations meet their missions," states Pamela Norr, Executive Officer for Council On Aging.

As a result, the Monday through Friday COCOA senior lunch program will be transferred to the Bend Community Center (BCC). USCB'S operations for seniors will also transfer to BCC. "This move provides added space and autonomy, while enhancing USCB's ability to increase its volunteer base," said Virginia Reddick of USCB.

"USCB 's return to the Bend Community Center is really a homecoming and will allow them to expand their services as needed," said Taffy Gleason, Executive Director of BCC.

The Bend Senior Center will be able to expand its classes and activities focusing on recreational programming, while USCB and COCOA continue to meet social service needs. Donna Shewey, Manager, of the Bend Senior Center said, "This is an exciting time in the history of senior services in Bend. The Bend Senior Center and its partners are moving forward to improve and expand services, to meet Bend's growing senior population."

COCOA will continue to coordinate Meals On Wheels as a separate program throughout the tri-county region and looks forward to continuing to provide meals for seniors where they need it.