



## December 2025 Report

### **Boardman Chamber of Commerce Outlines Vision for Stronger Business Support and Community Impact**

**Boardman, OR** — The Boardman Chamber of Commerce is moving into 2026 with a renewed focus on strengthening business support, expanding community programs, and increasing opportunities that contribute to the long-term economic vitality of Morrow County. Chamber leadership says the organization is committed to improving communication with members, building new partnerships, and creating more pathways for engagement as the region continues to grow. “We are committed to fostering a thriving, connected, and forward-thinking community,” said **Torrie Griggs, CEO of the Boardman Chamber of Commerce**. “Every program we offer, every event we host, and every partnership we build is done with the future of Morrow County in mind. Together, we are shaping a stronger and more vibrant Boardman.”

#### **Focus on Member Services**

The Chamber has emphasized its role as a resource and advocate for local businesses. In the coming year, members can expect enhanced visibility opportunities, more consistent communication, and expanded services designed to support businesses of all sizes. Chamber board members say their goal is to ensure organizations remain informed, connected, and equipped with tools that help them succeed in an evolving economic landscape.

#### **Investment in Youth and Support Workforce Development**

A key part of the Chamber’s strategy centers on supporting future workers through programs like **Chamber Champions**, which invests in youth activities, educational partnerships, and community initiatives aimed at building a strong talent pipeline. “These programs make a lasting impact on children and families in our community,” Griggs said.

#### **Membership Renewals and Opportunities to Join**

Current members will soon receive information about 2026 membership renewals, which include access to events, resources, networking opportunities, and business advocacy.

As part of this year’s renewal process, the Chamber is also offering one-on-one meetings for both new and existing members. These personalized sessions are designed to review membership benefits, explore visibility opportunities, and ensure each business is getting the

full value of their Chamber investment. Members may schedule a meeting at their convenience to discuss how the Chamber can best support their goals for the coming year.

For those not yet part of the Chamber, Griggs said now is an ideal time to join. “Becoming a member is simple and incredibly valuable,” she said. “It provides businesses with year-round visibility and connects them directly to the programs and events that shape our community.”

Membership details, applications, and meeting sign-ups are available at **boardmanchamber.org**, or by emailing **info@boardmanchamber.org**.

### **Community Events Continue to Play a Central Role**

Chamber events such as annual celebrations, networking luncheons, and business initiatives will continue to be a cornerstone of the organization’s community engagement strategy. Leadership emphasized that many of these events also support local families, schools, and workforce development efforts.

### **Looking Ahead**

With a mission focused on “growing Visibility, Voice, and Value,” the Boardman Chamber says it intends to play a central role in promoting economic development, strengthening partnerships, and uplifting the quality of life in the region.

“We’re excited about the future,” Griggs said. “The Chamber is here to support our businesses, our families, and our entire county as we build a thriving Boardman together.”

## **Upcoming Events and Programs**

**4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Luncheon:** The Boardman Chamber of Commerce is pleased to host the 4th Quarter Luncheon on **Wednesday, December 17, 2025**. We are proud to welcome **Amazon as the Title Sponsor** for this event. This luncheon will feature guest speakers from **Amazon**, offering valuable insights and opportunities for discussion. We will also hear from the **Boardman Food Pantry** as our second speaker. If time allows, we’ll close the event with a **roundtable discussion** as we wrap up our final luncheon of 2025.

Below is a link to register and join us as we finish the year with meaningful conversation and community connection.

Registration is open until Monday, December 16, 2025, through the Chamber website – <https://business.boardmanchamber.org/events/details/4th-quarter-chamber-luncheon-1486>

## **36<sup>th</sup> Annual Distinguished Citizens Awards Banquet**

The Boardman Chamber of Commerce will host the 36th Annual Distinguished Citizens Awards Banquet on Friday, March 6, 2026, at 6:00 PM at the SAGE Event Center. Planning is well underway, and promotional efforts continue across our social media platforms.

Nominations are now officially closed, and we extend our sincere thanks to everyone who submitted nominations. Your participation helps make this celebration meaningful and ensures we recognize the outstanding individuals who make a difference in our community. This year's event is shaping up to be a wonderful success, and we look forward to sharing more details soon.

### **Upcoming Chamber/BCDA Events**

- 4th Quarter Luncheon – December 17, 2025
- 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Distinguished Citizens Awards Banquet – March 6, 2026

For more information, please contact **Torrie Griggs, CEO**, at **541-571-2394** or email [torrie@boardmanchamber.org](mailto:torrie@boardmanchamber.org). Visit [www.boardmanchamber.org](http://www.boardmanchamber.org) or call our office at **541-481-3014** for further details.



## BCDA Continues Investing in Homes, Businesses, and a Stronger Boardman

The Boardman Community Development Association (BCDA) remains committed to strengthening quality of life and supporting sustainable growth in Boardman. Through targeted investments in housing, business development, recreation, and essential community infrastructure, BCDA continues to drive progress that benefits residents, empowers local employers, and enhances the overall appeal of our community.

From expanding homeownership opportunities and supporting small business growth to improving recreational amenities and preparing future commercial spaces, BCDA's efforts are designed to meet the needs of a growing population and a diversifying economy. These investments reaffirm BCDA's mission to foster a thriving, forward-thinking Boardman where families and businesses can plant roots and succeed.

### Continued Housing Investment in 2025

BCDA is continuing its successful Home Buyers Incentive Program in 2025, dedicating \$250,000 to support new homeowners and encourage more families to make Boardman their home. So far, \$240,000 in housing grants have been awarded—clear evidence of both the program's strong impact and the growing demand for housing in our community.

With the program performing exactly as intended and nearing its full allocation, BCDA is prepared to extend additional funding as needed to ensure every qualifying homebuyer can benefit through the remainder of 2025.

### Pickleball Court Development

The Boardman Community Development Association (BCDA) has reached an important milestone this month with the finalization of the partnership agreement between the City of Boardman and the Morrow County Unified Recreation District (MCURD) for the community's new pickleball complex. With **\$350,000 in committed MCURD funding** and an additional **\$50,000 investment from Amazon**, BCDA is now moving into the formal design phase for an **8-court facility** that will serve as a major addition to Boardman's recreational footprint.

This project represents more than new courts—it strengthens Boardman's long-term community health, expands access to family-friendly recreation, and supports the growing local

interest in pickleball. Early design work will establish the construction timeline and cost estimates, with **groundbreaking targeted for spring 2026**. BCDA will continue coordinating closely with the City to ensure the complex becomes a high-quality, durable amenity for residents and visitors alike.

### **Business Opportunity Incubator Moves Forward**

The Boardman Community Development Association (BCDA) continues progress on the Boardman Business Opportunity Incubator, a major community investment funded by a \$1.5 million U.S. Small Business Administration grant. The project will deliver a two-story facility featuring executive offices, space for medical and retail services, and dedicated incubator suites designed to support emerging small businesses—especially women-, minority-, and low-income-owned enterprises. With full BCDA Board approval, this initiative reflects a strong commitment to expanding local entrepreneurship and essential services.

BCDA has contracted **Anderson Perry** for engineering and project management, and **Architects West** will lead the building design. These partners will guide the planning and design work that will shape the next phase of development. Beyond supporting business growth, the incubator project aligns with BCDA's long-term vision to strengthen NE Front Street as a vibrant commercial corridor, increasing access to goods, services, and professional resources for the community.

### **Community Beautification & Facility Upgrades**

Planned upgrades to the Boardman Field House, including turf replacement, lighting modernization, and interior paneling improvements—are currently paused but will be revisited in the coming months as scheduling and resources allow. These enhancements remain a priority and will support long-term safety, functionality, and user experience once work resumes.

Reservations can still be made by contacting Torrie directly, and the current Field House schedule is available on the Boardman Field House Facebook page.

### **Focused on a Thriving Boardman**

BCDA continues to prioritize four core areas essential to Boardman's long-term prosperity: housing development, community beautification, commercial and retail expansion, and educational support. Through strong collaboration with local partners, businesses, and residents, BCDA remains committed to fostering a vibrant and forward-looking community.

The BCDA Board of Directors includes President John Christy, Vice President Lisa Mittelsdorf, Secretary/Treasurer Karen Pettigrew, and Board Member Krista Price. Their leadership guides

BCDA's efforts to strengthen opportunities and enhance quality of life across Boardman and Morrow County.

For more information, contact Torrie Griggs at (541) 571-2394 or [torrie@boardmanchamber.org](mailto:torrie@boardmanchamber.org). Additional details are available at [www.boardmanchamber.org](http://www.boardmanchamber.org) or by calling (541) 481-3014.