



April 2026 Report

Events and Programs

36th Annual Distinguished Citizens Awards Banquet – March 11, 2026

The Boardman Chamber of Commerce proudly hosted the 36th Annual Distinguished Citizens Awards Banquet at the SAGE Event Center, celebrating individuals whose leadership, service, and commitment continue to strengthen our community.

This year's honorees included:

- **Citizen of the Year – David Boor**
- **Business of the Year – Threemile Canyon Farms**
- **Business Person of the Year – Dr. Earl**
- **Youth Citizen of the Year – Kaylee Christy**
- **Pioneer of the Year – Mary Lou Daltoso**
- **Educator of the Year – Chris Hull**
- **Frontline Worker of the Year - Shari Stokoe**

This signature event not only recognizes excellence but also reinforces the Chamber's mission to promote Boardman by elevating the people and businesses that make our community thrive. Proceeds from the evening directly support Riverside High School senior scholarships, further investing in the future workforce and leadership of our region.

1st Quarter Luncheon (Annual Membership Luncheon) – March 18, 2026

The Chamber hosted its Annual Membership Luncheon in partnership with Umatilla Electric Cooperative, bringing together business leaders, community partners, and stakeholders.

Highlights included:

- A legislative update from Representative Greg Smith, providing insight into policies impacting rural communities, infrastructure, and economic development.

- A presentation from FBLA President Abrianna Lomeli, showcasing the strength of our local talent pipeline and future workforce.
- A Chamber Annual Report, highlighting 2025 accomplishments and outlining strategic priorities for 2026 focused on economic vitality, housing, workforce development, and tourism growth.

This event reflects the Chamber’s role as the voice of business and a connector of community, providing meaningful engagement opportunities while aligning partners around shared regional goals.

Ryan Neal Invitational Golf Tournament – May 8 & 9, 2026

The Ryan Neal Invitational (RNI) is a premier two-day charity golf tournament benefiting Riverside High School senior scholarships. Registration is open, and sponsorships are currently available. This regional event draws strong participation and generates scholarship funding for local students. Get your team entered today!

Boardman 4th of July Celebration – July 4, 2026

As one of Boardman’s largest annual events, the 4th of July Celebration is a cornerstone of our **tourism strategy**, attracting visitors from across the region.

The event features:

- A community parade
- Live entertainment and family activities
- Vendor marketplace supporting local and small businesses
- A fireworks display over the Columbia River, sponsored by MCURD

This event plays a critical role in showcasing Boardman as a destination to **Live, Work & Play**, while generating economic activity and community pride.

End of Summer Celebration – August 28, 2026

The End of Summer Celebration brings residents and visitors together for an evening of connection and appreciation. The event includes live entertainment, complimentary food and ice cream, and recognition of our first responders.

Fully sponsored by the Morrow County Unified Recreation District (MCURD), this event remains free and accessible, reinforcing Boardman’s commitment to quality of life and community engagement. The evening concludes with a fireworks display over the Columbia River, further enhancing the visitor experience.

Tourism & Community Visibility Impact

Through these events and programs, the Chamber continues to advance its mission by:

- Increasing **visibility** of Boardman as a regional destination
- Strengthening the **voice** of business through advocacy and engagement
- Delivering **value** through economic impact, tourism activity, and community investment

Signature events drive measurable outcomes including increased visitation, support for local businesses, and enhanced community identity—directly aligning with the City of Boardman’s Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) investment and tourism development goals.

Upcoming Chamber Events

- RNI Golf Tournament – May 8 & 9, 2026
- 2nd Quarter Luncheon – June 17, 2026
- 4th of July Celebration – July 4, 2026
- End of Summer Celebration – August 28, 2026
- 3rd Quarter Luncheon – September 16, 2026
- Community Christmas Celebration – December 5, 2026
- 4th Quarter Luncheon – December 16, 2026

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



Major Capital & Leveraged Investments

Business Opportunity Incubator

BCDA continues to advance the approximately \$6 million Business Opportunity Incubator, anchored by a secured \$1.5 million U.S. Small Business Administration grant. This transformative project will provide a two-story, mixed-use facility featuring retail storefronts, executive office space, medical and service-based opportunities, and dedicated incubator suites. The project is designed to support small business development, with a focus on women-, minority-, and low-income entrepreneurs, while strengthening Boardman's local economy. Additional funding partnerships and financing tools are being pursued to complete the full project investment.

Pickleball Court Development

BCDA is progressing plans for an 8-court pickleball complex, with an estimated project investment of \$600,000. Current funding includes \$300,000 from MCURD and \$50,000 from AWS, demonstrating strong regional partnership support. This project will serve as a valuable recreational asset, promoting community wellness, enhancing livability, and attracting visitors to Boardman.

Homebuyer Incentive Program

To address ongoing housing needs, BCDA has committed \$250,000 in 2026 to continue the Homebuyer Incentive Program. This program provides \$5,000 grants to qualifying homebuyers within the 97818 zip code, directly supporting workforce housing, encouraging homeownership, and contributing to long-term community stability.

Annual Community Investments

BCDA remains committed to sustained annual investments that strengthen families, workforce development, and community vitality:

- \$90,000 to support youth recreation and community programming partnerships

- \$30,000 annual contribution to Families First Child Care, supporting early childhood education and workforce participation
- \$20,000 sponsorship of the Annual BAM Fishing Tournament, held in conjunction with the End of Summer Celebration, enhancing regional visitation and community engagement
- \$90,000 allocated for program administration through the Chamber partnership, ensuring effective delivery and alignment of initiatives

Strategic Impact

BCDA's 2026 priorities reflect a disciplined and impactful investment strategy focused on leveraging outside resources, advancing housing solutions, supporting business development, and enhancing community amenities. These efforts collectively contribute to a stronger, more resilient Boardman—supporting economic vitality, workforce sustainability, and an enhanced quality of life for residents and visitors alike.