



MEMORANDUM

Senior Services & LINX Transit

Date: May 5, 2025

To: Mayor Jackola and City Council

From: Kindra Oliver, Senior Center & LINX Transit Director

Subject: Monthly LINX Transit & Senior Center Report

LINX Transit:

To date, LINX Transit has provided over 64,000 rides, which is the total number of rides we had provided in all of FY23/24.

LINX Transit is happy to announce that we have selected a vendor and have an official contract in place for our new scheduling and dispatching software, Trip Master! The new system will have a dashboard for dispatchers to schedule rides, ability to view mapping of LINX vehicles in real time and view bus cameras, all on one platform. Drivers will have tablets on their buses that list their next pick-ups and drop-offs, in necessary order. The tablets include Bluetooth to provide turn-by-turn directions to the next stop(s). The tablets will also provide any useful information about riders, such as mobility devices needed, narrow driveway, any assistance that might be needed, etc.. Dispatchers and drivers will have the ability to send messages through the dispatch dashboard and the driver tablets. We will still use two-way radios, but the radio communication will lighten up quite a bit. The new system also includes a rider app where riders can schedule their own rides and dispatchers can approve and adjust, as needed. There are many other great features, just wanted to name a few so you can start to visualize how it will work. With the contract in place, equipment will be ordered and likely installed in early June. We will likely have in-person training and go live in mid-June. This project will be funded through a grant award through Oregon Department of Transportation for 80% of the project and the other 20% match through a grant award through Linn County Statewide Transportation Improvement Funds.

Senior Center:

April was national afternoon tea month, so how could the Senior Center not host a tea? "Make Time for Tea" was our theme and we connected slowing down to make and enjoy a cup of tea as an example of making sure we take care of ourselves. The Senior Center has up to 100 beautiful, unique, assorted tea cups and saucers, as well as some tea pots, that spark wonderful conversations among those in attendance. Barbara Brown, who used to own Mrs. B's Special-Teas Teashop, downtown, presented some wonderful historical and social significance of teatime. A

junior from a local high school came and played piano for us. The seniors in attendance were very impressed by their experience and the event brought in quite a few new people for the first time. Sometimes, it is special events like this that draw people in so they can meet us and then they come back after they learn all we have to offer.

We couldn't do some of what we accomplish without our amazing volunteers. Our volunteers help host some of our regular activities, lead craft groups, provide extra hands for bigger events and newsletter folding. We hosted a Volunteer Appreciation luncheon for our Senior Center volunteers on April 22nd, as another way to thank them for all their help to provide the wonderful programs, events and activities for our community.

Senior Center staff held an Earth Day activity on Saturday, April 26th. Participants participated in pulling a few weeds around the building and spent some time outdoors in the nice weather together. Thank you to Summit Ace Hardware, who donated 25 flowers to those who participated in the event.