



MEMORANDUM

Senior Services & LINX Transit

Date: August 1, 2024

To: Mayor Jackola and City Council

From: Kindra Oliver, Senior Center & LINX Transit Director

Subject: Monthly LINX & Senior Center Report

LINX Transit:

LINX had a full-time driver retire last month and they are now driving part time. We have another full-time driver retiring at the end of August. We posted an internal recruitment a couple of weeks ago and filled the vacancy with one of our part-time drivers, who will start as full-time on August 12th. We have an active recruitment open for the other full-time vacancy and will conduct interviews on August 8th or 15th.

LINX staff is working on the Request for Information (RFI) for scheduling and dispatching software and equipment to assist with increased rider demand and gaining efficiencies with daily operations. A Request for Quote (RFQ) will follow shortly after the RFI process is complete. The RFI process will help guide the scope of work for the RFQ.

Linn County and ODOT have announced the timelines associated with FY25-27 grant solicitations, as follows:

- STIF (Statewide Transportation Improvement Funds) Discretionary grant applications for capital purchases and pilot projects will be due to ODOT on August 5th.
- 5310 applications for vehicle preventative maintenance and capital projects will be due to Linn County on October 8th.
- STIF Payroll grant applications for operations will be due to Linn County on October 15th.
- STIF Population grant applications for operations will be due to Linn County on October 15th.
- 5311 applications for operations will be due to ODOT on November 20th.

Senior Center:

Summer is a great time for outdoor activities at the Senior Center, including fun activities like a “pool party” or Watermelon Games to bring out some youthful energy and social opportunities. A

mix of smaller gatherings allow people to connect on a deeper level and wonderful to see new friendships blossom.

Prior to COVID, we had a good-sized fiber arts group that met weekly. Unfortunately, some of that leadership past and the group disconnected. Senior Center staff have been refreshing crochet skills so that we can make a focused campaign into re-energizing this group. We will be leading a Crochet for a Cause group on Tuesday afternoons, starting in August. The intent is to gather seniors interested in knitting or crochet to work on blocks. Beginners are also welcome and will be taught a basic block that they can feel accomplished learning and be able to contribute to the project. Blocks will be stitched together to form small lap blankets. These blankets will be donated to the infusion center at the hospital and possibly to CASA if output exceeds the need of the hospital. We hope connections will be made between participants and staff can use this project to rekindle a regular meeting of a fiber arts group.

We have a new volunteer who will be teaching a variety of crafts at the Senior Center each month.

We have another new volunteer sparking an interest in bringing seniors together to play poker in our game room. This group will welcome beginners and experienced players. The games will be played for fun with everyone receiving the same number of chips at the start, players taking turns being dealer and dealer choosing the type of poker that round. Several seniors have already started voicing an interest in the new groups.

Senior Center staff are also working hard to prepare for big events in September, which is National Senior Center month. We are working to put a resource fair together and other activities around this year's theme, "Empowering Connections." Falls Prevention Week also occurs in the month of September. Falls have a drastic impact over the well-being and quality of life for seniors, so want to help spread awareness as we can. Last year's Falls Prevention Event was a big success, so we are hoping to build on a partnership with Comp-NW Physical Therapy Program to reach even more seniors with information about preventing falls.