



## SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER

Philomath Community Services (PCS)

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The crocuses have sprung up, and the daffodils are beginning to open. The sun is about to start shining, and soon, our lovely pocket of the Willamette valley will be alive with color! Here is the latest news from PCS:

### Garden Grand Opening

Lupe's Community Garden is opening Saturday, April 22, 2023! This growing season, hours will be:

- ★ Tuesdays, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.
- ★ Thursdays, 4:00 to 6:00 PM.
- ★ Saturdays, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

And mark your calendar for these upcoming free Garden events! Let's make the most of our own little Philomath community garden. Please keep an eye on our [website](http://www.philomathcommunityservices.org) for any last-minute changes.

Date	Time	Event
Saturday, 5/13/2023	10:00 AM to 12:00 PM	Master Gardener Workshop: Container Veggie Gardening
Saturday, 6/24/2023	10:00 AM to 12:00 PM	Master Gardener Workshop: Composting
Saturday 10/21/2023	11:00 AM to 1:00 PM	Grand Work Party! (last-day cleanup)

### More than Food

Most of you reading this know that PCS houses a food pantry, a gleaning operation, and a community garden—but did you know we also distribute clothing, hygiene products, and holiday gifts?

And not only that, but our doors are open to anyone who wants to give back, to serve their community—to network, grow, and be the best they can be. Here is a [video](#) to help share this perspective.



## PCS in the News

Philomath is fortunate to have a local, transparent, quality news source like Philomath News. Here are several recent articles that feature or highlight PCS:


- ★ [Organization plans to send first aid kits to Ukraine](#) (March 16, 2023)
- ★ [City of Volunteers recognizes its best during annual Samaritan Awards](#) (February 16, 2023)
- ★ [Philomath Community Services elects 2023 officers](#) (December 24, 2022)

## SNAP Benefits Reduction

Friendly reminder that pandemic-related SNAP benefits ended on March 1, 2023. This reflects one of the challenges that our clients and volunteers face: growing demand for our services, as the support that families and individuals rely on changes given factors outside of their control.

If these changes are impacting you, just remember: We are here for you!

### Important Changes to SNAP Benefits Starting March 1, 2023



Beginning March 1, many people enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (sometimes called "SNAP" or "food stamps") will see a decrease in our monthly benefits.

In response to the pandemic, many SNAP participants received additional benefits each month, based on household size. **Now that the COVID-19 state of emergency is ending, federal funding for these SNAP "emergency allotments" will also expire** — and many Oregonians will see a decrease in our monthly benefits as a result.

**Regular SNAP benefits received prior to the pandemic will not change.** Everyone should receive their regular SNAP deposit between the 1st and 9th of the month, as usual. Only the "emergency allotments" will end. Log in at [EBTedge.com](https://www.ebtedge.com) to view the regular benefit amount, which is listed in transaction history at the beginning of each month.


**For SNAP benefit questions**

Please call ONE Customer Service at 1-800-699-9075 (711 TTY) or find an office near you at [one.oregon.gov/general/locateanoffice](https://one.oregon.gov/general/locateanoffice).

**To find food assistance**

Know that food remains available to all who need it! Visit [oregonfoodfinder.org](https://oregonfoodfinder.org) or call 2-1-1 to find a pantry, free food market or meal site near you.

Learn more at [oregonfoodbank.org/snapchanges](https://oregonfoodbank.org/snapchanges)

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### Cambios importantes a los beneficios del SNAP a partir del 1 de marzo de 2023



A partir del 1 de marzo, muchas personas inscritas en el Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Programa de Asistencia Nutricional Suplementaria, a veces llamado "SNAP" o "estampillas para alimentos") recibiremos menos beneficios mensuales.

En respuesta a la pandemia, muchas personas que participan en el programa SNAP recibieron beneficios adicionales cada mes, según el tamaño del grupo familiar. **Ahora que el estado de emergencia por el COVID-19 se termina, los fondos federales para estas "asignaciones de emergencia" del SNAP también se dejarán de distribuir** y, por lo tanto, muchas personas en Oregon recibirán menos beneficios mensuales.

**Los beneficios regulares del SNAP que se recibían antes de la pandemia no cambiarán.** Todos deben recibir su depósito habitual del SNAP entre el 1 y el 9 de cada mes, al igual que siempre. Solo acabarán las "asignaciones de emergencia". Para ver el monto de tu beneficio regular, inicia tu sesión en [EBTedge.com](https://www.ebtedge.com). El monto aparece en la lista de transacciones a principios de cada mes.

**PARA PREGUNTAS SOBRE LOS BENEFICIOS DEL SNAP**

Llama al servicio de atención al cliente de ONE al 1-800-699-9075 (711 TTY) o encuentra una oficina cerca de tu casa en [one.oregon.gov/general/locateanoffice](https://one.oregon.gov/general/locateanoffice).

**PARA ENCONTRAR AYUDA ALIMENTARIA**

¡Recuerda que hay comida disponible para todas las personas que la necesiten! Visita [asistenciaalimentariaoregon.org](https://asistenciaalimentariaoregon.org) o llama al 2-1-1 para encontrar un banco de alimentos, un mercado de alimentos gratuitos o un centro donde se sirven comidas listas cerca de tu casa.

Más información en [oregonfoodbank.com/snapcambios](https://oregonfoodbank.com/snapcambios)

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## Annual Report for 2022 (Our 31st Year!)

Please [click here](#) for our 2022 Annual Report. We also have a [video version](#). As a quick summary, we leveraged thousands of volunteer hours to serve hundreds of our neighbors every month, processing tens of thousands of pounds of food—all thanks to the wonderfully generous support of our community!





### Public Comment Opportunity

PCS is growing. As we begin actively looking to secure a new building, please feel welcome to join the discussion by sharing your thoughts! [Here is a link](#) to our public survey. Thank you!

### Pruning Workshop, a Success

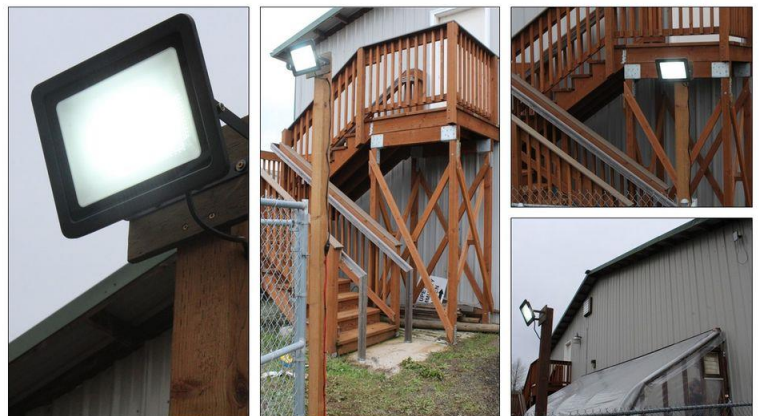
Special thanks to the Master Gardener Programs of Linn and Benton Counties for hosting a pruning workshop in our community garden this past winter! What a treat to connect true experts with local gardeners through our community's garden.



### Brightening Our Day

Thanks to a grant from the Oregon Food Bank, we were able to mount floodlights to lighten our south-side parking lot.

Our generous community is not limited to individuals, but also businesses and other organizations—all of whom can brighten our day even in the heart of winter.





## Volunteer of the Month

We are kickstarting our Volunteer of the Month recognition, and who better to start with than Bill Rowe? If you spend much time around PCS, you are bound to run into this friendly, hard-working gentleman who serves as a shining example of volunteerism for our community. Thank you and thank you again, Bill!



## PCS Overview

We had the opportunity to share an overview of PCS during a recent Rotary Club of Philomath meeting. [Here is a video](#) of David M. Low, our Board President, sharing the fascinating history of our community's premier social service agency.



## Another Big Food Drive

At the very beginning of winter, our food drive brought in nearly 1,600 pounds of food!

Special thanks to the students, staff, and parents of Philomath Elementary School and Philomath Middle School who helped collect the much-needed items.



## Recognizing an Outstanding Volunteer

Congratulations to Patty Nobles for a 2023 Samaritan Award!

There are few people with a heart like Patty, who manages the Philomath Community Gleaners. She donates a tremendous amount of work every week, putting others before herself to help all our neighbors feel warm, fed, and valued. We are grateful for the Philomath Area Chamber Commerce for offering a platform to recognize truly inspirational volunteers like Patty.

*Photo credit: Brad Fuqua, Philomath News.*



## Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for the PCS Community Celebration! We will have games, prizes, food, and information.

Together, let's celebrate our community for Philomath Community Services' 32<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary. All are welcome.



★ **When:** 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM, Sunday, September 17, 2023.

★ **Where:** Marys River Park and Natural Area, Philomath.

## PCS Online

Join us on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, and Nextdoor!



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*Philomath Community Services is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and an equal opportunity provider.*



✿ *Have a sweet and pleasant spring!* ✿