

The 2006 Canby Livability Community Spirit Award recipient: Beverly Doolittle Executive Director of the Canby Area Chamber of Commerce

The 2006 Community Spirit Award winner is Bev Doolittle, a Canby Resident and Executive Director from the Canby Area Chamber of Commerce. She is an individual who is well-known and respected in Canby, and over the years has become an integral part of our business community. She has a “can do attitude” and isn’t easily deterred when a tough hurdle presents itself. If ultimately the end result will benefit Canby as a community, she is ready to champion the efforts. She loves the “high five” moment when a plan comes together and is quick to spotlight team players when she is applauded.

Bev is not only a hard working professional and civic minded person; she is also the proud mother of 3 grown children. She has found the art of balancing priorities while being an active member of our community. Bev is truly a spirited individual who enjoys bringing people and opportunities together. Bev sees the bigger picture and knows how to bring key players together in the process. Bev takes great pride in how she “matches” likeminded people. She is continually looking at what the businesses in our community want to accomplish, listens to what their goals are, and then she keeps all the possibilities bubbling in her “Rolodex” brain. A recent example was how the Downtown Flower Basket Project came together. Bev has been involved as a committee member with the project from the beginning giving ideas, solutions, and resources. She worked as a team player with several organizations that were focused on the project. The ultimate solution was bringing a variety of community resources together, including the students from our Canby High Horticulture and Ag. Dept. Due to a team effort, 2nd street and Wait Park will be lined with blooming flower baskets during the 2006 season. Bev went one step further and wrote a grant to Safeco to fund the “Garden Spot” theme banners that will line 99E to coincide with the hanging of the baskets. In April 2006, we planted the baskets, and Bev was there with her sleeves rolled up with her hands in the dirt planting baskets side by side with the volunteers and students. Bev’s community spirit shows in her level of participation and in the passion she has for our community.

Bev has also been instrumental in helping the Canby Livability Coalition to grow as an organization by consistently forwarding educational and grant opportunities to us, promoting our marketing pieces, giving us referrals and she has been instrumental in networking with individuals to assist us with our various community projects. If you’re a business owner in Canby your best bet is to be a Chamber member because Bev, along with her talented staff and dedicated board members, takes great pride in helping businesses and organizations to succeed. She knows that ultimately the City of Canby benefits when we have a strong business core and successful civic organizations. There are many Canby Area businesses that can tell you similar stories of how after sharing their vision and goals with Bev that she directed them to the next step, a potential client or a new idea. After years of presenting the Leadership Canby program, Bev has taken the curriculum to heart through leading by example when networking and supporting our business community. Though her position at the Chamber requires her to show leadership and to be involved, Bev takes her job description one step further, and then adds a special touch of community passion and spirit.