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Coming together

The Canby Community Garden Association joins forces with Canby Livability Coalition with an eye to the future

By: [Ray Hughey](#)
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The Canby Community Garden Association has become the newest member of the Canby Livability Coalition.

The community garden association was formed by eight residents who garden at the Baker Prairie Middle School Community Garden, said member and master gardener Lauren Robertson. Their goal is to encourage more gardens and advocate a healthy, organic gardening lifestyle.

Last month, the community garden association received a Clackamas County active living-healthy grant for about \$8,000.

"We had been talking to the livability coalition about joining them and this was the time," Robertson said. "They have the nonprofit status and experience working with the community."

The Livability Coalition had worked with the garden group several years in a support role, said President Robert Tice. "We offered to bring them in as a part of Canby Living Coalition."

Founded in 2002, the Canby Livability Coalition is a citizen-based grassroots organization. Its advisers focus on projects benefiting neighborhood associations, parks and recreation, commerce, arts, community heritage and now community gardens. Its projects include the Canby Green Space and Art Park, downtown planter boxes and flower boxes.

The coalition membership will help the garden association better connect with the community and give it more resources for certain projects, Robertson said. Garden association member Richard Dopp has taken a seat on the coalition's board of advisers.

And its inclusion under the coalition's nonprofit umbrellas will allow the community garden association to accept tax-deductible donations and to apply for more grants.

The Clackamas County grant will be used to line up professional teachers, master gardeners and supplies to teach two gardening classes a month April through December, she said.

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The goal of the free classes will be to educate and inspire citizens of all ages and ethnic backgrounds with demonstrations and hands-on activities.

The free Seed to Table classes will go from starting plants from seeds, to harvesting, canning and growing winter gardens.

They will use a mobile classroom, a tent and chairs, to move from location to location each month.

"We're basically trying to bring the class to the community, she said. "Everything will be mobile."

They will start with classes for about 30 people and plan to make Spanish and Russian interpreters available.

The class lineup includes:

April — "Getting Started," soil structure, site location, containers and transplanting tricks.

May — "The Early Garden," early planning, soil temperatures and early edibles.

June — "Perennial Food and Watering Tricks," plants that provide food year and year and wise ways to water.

July — "Garden Friends, Pests and Problems," garden solutions using integrated pest management methods.

August — "Preserving What You Grow," harvesting, canning, and freeze dry.

September — "Eating from Your Garden in the Winter and Planning Ahead," growing food year around and planning for the next season with mulching, lasagna gardens and how to start tomatoes and peppers.

For more information on the Canby Community Garden Association and its Active Living-Healthy Eating grant, visit http://www.canbycommunitygarden.com/Canby_Community_Garden_Association/Welcome.html. For more information on the Canby Livability Coalition, visit its website at <http://www.canbylivability.org/>.

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