

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
*Robert G. Wells*  
THROUGH: ROBERT G. WELLS, CITY MANAGER  
FROM: BARBARA A. ROBERTS, CPRP, DIRECTOR *Barbara Roberts*  
PARKS, RECREATION, AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
SUBJECT: SALEM SENIOR CENTER PRESENTED 2007 OUTSTANDING PROGRAM AWARD  
FROM OREGON RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION.

**ISSUE**

Salem Senior Center's Forget-Me-Not program was recognized with a 2007 Outstanding Program award by the Oregon Recreation and Park Association.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Information only.

**BACKGROUND:**

1. In fall 2006, Mr. Larry Tokarski, contacted the Salem Senior Center, interested in starting a senior wish program. The concept was to provide an opportunity to low-income seniors to have their life dreams fulfilled. The concept is similar to the well-known children's "Make-a-Wish" program.
2. A partnership was formed wherein Mr. Tokarski made a commitment to build a steering committee and seek necessary funds and in-kind contributions to support the program, and if the Salem Senior Center agreed to manage the program, seek applicants, and coordinate and implement the dream events.
3. The members of the steering committee have chosen to remain anonymous, wanting the attention from "Forget-Me-Not" to remain squarely on the recipients.
4. In January 2006, Friends of the Salem Senior Center agreed to be the fiscal managers of the new program, provided several board members to serve on the Forget-Me-Not steering committee, and created a volunteer workforce to implement the dream events.
5. Since its inception, the Forget-Me-Not program has awarded four substantial gifts, exceeding \$14,000 in value, to local seniors, including:
  - a. New transportation for a determined volunteer whose previous vehicle had become unreliable
  - b. Reuniting a foster mother and daughter 40 years after losing touch and relocating from Turkey
  - c. Providing an exercise treadmill to a homebound woman seeking to regain her strength
  - d. Helping an abuse survivor heal via the process of publishing her therapeutic and touching memoir

**FACTS AND FINDINGS**

1. In October 2007, the Salem Senior Center Forget-Me-Not program was recognized by the Oregon Recreation and Park Association, Section for Older Adult Resources, as the 2007 Outstanding Program of the year. The plaques are on display at the Salem Senior Center.
2. Senior Center Advisory Commission Chair, Kay Trask will be present at the Council meeting to share a short video showing one dream being fulfilled and to answer questions.