

2026  
2027

# VISITOR

*Yamhill Valley*

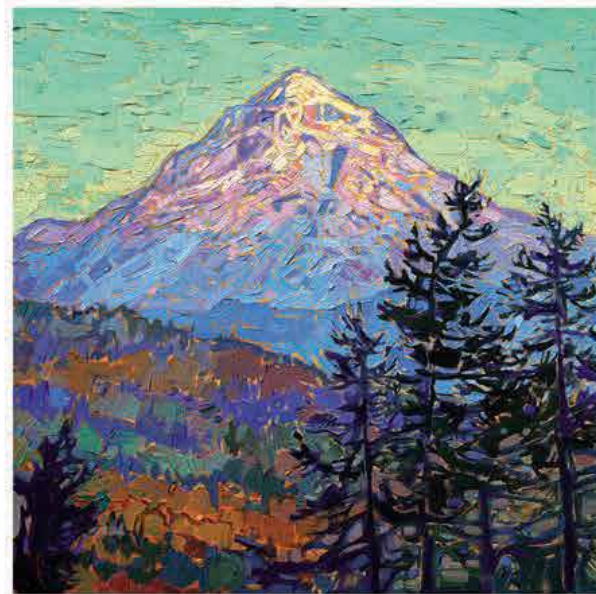
# GUIDE

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PHOTOS BY KIRBY-NEUMANN-REA

# Lessons learned driving around one corner of Wine Country

by Kirby Neumann-Rea

**F**irst, Avidity. A brief way of saying one should put a priority on enthusiasm? Such a sentiment is never wrong; however, in this case, Avidity is a winery just east of Newberg. And, aside from being a very nice place, it's relevant to one lesson I learned the first time out in my part-time gig delivering publications for Oregon Lithoprint, the News-Register's parent company. Call this "Lessons From the Oregon Wine Press Route" – note that this piece is limited to the route I drive: wineries within the American Viticultural Areas (AVAs) of

Chehalem Mountains, Ribbon Ridge and Dundee Hills, and a few places in the Yamhill-Carlton. That's caveat number one. In any sector of Wine Country there is so much to be gained beyond the sampling of Pinot Noirs, Syrahs and Zinfandels. Caveat number two: no, I did not try any wine while delivering the Wine Press. Yet beyond tasting wine, multiple benefits "a-cru" from driving the backroads above and around Newberg, Dundee, and Carlton. Among them, the designated driver gets to enjoy the awesome scenery. And there is much to learn while doing so. So, on to those Lessons:

- Want to meet the world's friendliest "winery cat"? Go to Compris, near Newberg, and be welcomed by the velvet-grey, green-eyed Otis.
- Like to admire local hand-made quilts along with your wine? See the lobby of Cana's Feast in Carlton.
- Want some a trip that might combine Pet-Nat AND Pac-Man? There's a game table at Roots Winery near Yamhill.
- Want unique local history literally built into a winery? Beaux Freres near Yamhill is a refurbished dairy farm and Rex Hill near Newberg incorporates the building from the original hazelnut heyday, and visible are the rails for carts rolled into the roasting oven.
- Looking for a ghost story? Check out Argyle in the heart of Dundee, and the force that is Lena Elsie Imus. She hangs out not in the modern tasting room in the back, but chances are you're encounter her, or the sense of her, in the vintage home up front, known as Spirithouse.
- Looking for a really long drive up to a loftily-positioned tasting room? The longest, wend-iest driveways include: Elk Cove near Gaston; Lange Estates near Dundee; Penner-Ash north of Carlton; Alexana near Newberg; Winter's Hill near Newberg; and Nysa and Knudson near



LEFT: Lange Estate Winery  
BELOW: Pac-Man video game table, Roots Winery

Dundee. These are tasting room destinations with amazing views and long drives up narrow, tree-lined roads giving one a feeling of going back in time or into the plot of a novella you wonder how it ends. Rounding out the list is the remarkable entryway to LucidWilde, also near Dundee. LucidWilde's driveway feels like a particular cliffhanger with its series of steep switchbacks. You will get the same feeling driving the serpentine road up to neighboring Black Walnut Inn, site of Four Graces Winery tasting room. Maybe you don't want to drive that far off the main route. You like your tasting rooms close-in and close together?

Consider these north-county tasting room neighborhoods: ■ Six wineries are neighbors between 5th and 7th streets on Highway 99W in Dundee; at the other end of downtown, in and around the Dundee Hotel, are another four. ■ In downtown Carlton find eight wineries in a four-block radius; just north off Highway 47, three are grouped on the same road. ■ In downtown Newberg, stroll between eight wineries in the downtown core on First and Hancock streets.

This whole treatise is based on driving, so let's get back on the road again.

*Continued on next page*

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# WINE

Ribbon Ridge is a singularly-beautiful road that runs the length of the small but mighty AVA by that name, but take it easy on that narrow, scenic and – at last check – pothole-filled road.

Wineries hand out cards with information about contacting the Yamhill County Public Works office about fixing Ribbon Ridge Road. As of late winter, the county had responded and smoothed over the elephant-skin patches and series of deep potholes.

With that, we'll loop a couple

of road safety and general getting-around-unfamiliar-territory tips. Indeed, if you see county graders on the roads, expect to find stretches of loose gravel, so reduce your speed.

Caveat number three: Ribbon Ridge is far from the only stretch of road requiring caution.

A must-be-seen-to-believed drive between wineries is Woodland Loop Road west of Yamhill. Start at the Saffron Fields-Lenne-Willakenzie cluster on Laughlin Road

and take the sharp turn onto Woodland Loop. Not far up, Roots Winery has a small tasting room with a massive view of the Coast Range seen through oak trees. Continue west and then south as the narrow, serpentine road climbs and wends its way along a steep ridge with views of Mt. Hood to the northeast. Pastures and pine groves directly abut the road before it enters deep forest with ravine edges at places nervously close to the fogline.

Where potholes are an

issue on Ribbon Ridge, on Woodland Loop the issue is rugged asphalt that's somewhat sketchy in places – and unforgiving, ravine-hugging stretches at that.

The narrow road, heavily shaded by trees and the compact slopes, suddenly flattens out and, on the sunny day in question, bursts into a wide valley anchored by Solena Lake and a smaller pond between neighboring Solena Estates and Gran Moraine wineries.

The happy irony is that the

scenery is so gorgeous you will want to slow down just to take it all in.

Yes, plenty of winery access roads – public and private – are rutted, narrow, and not conducive to fast speeds.

Wineries may define their own oases-spaces, but they do not exist in some separate fairy-land, though it may feel like it on the elysian hill-climbs to Ghost Hill Ranch near Carlton or Compris Vineyard near Newberg. No, it is a fact that many wineries exist side-by-side with private homes, and those proximities deserve respect in many forms, primarily safe, restrained driving speeds as you travel up and back

As the sign reads on

Hillside Drive near Newberg: "Speed = Dust/Be Kind, Go Slow". (On the other side: "Thank you.") By the way, that sign is on a curve and just around it is a stellar valley view framed by evergreens and slopes of emerald vineyard land. (Is there a special grass seed they use to give the ground such a glow?)

Other signs indicating the nature of the roadscape are "Driveways!" on Calkins Lane near Newberg and "Go Wide" on Worden Hill near Dundee. They speak for plenty of places in Wine Country.

Another driving note comes courtesy of the caution signs that carry the profile of a tractor. It's a reminder that farm vehicles also ply these roads, and they must travel at reduced speeds. Keep in

mind at any time there could be slow-moving tractor just around that next curve.

Think you need 10 minutes to travel that three miles to the next winery on your list? Make it 15.

Now, back to Avidity Winery and that a far busier and paved highway, 99W between Newberg and Sherwood. Avidity is not exactly hard to get to – just off the highway -- but in a unique location, in the far northeast corner of Yamhill County.

I learned to first deliver the Wine Press to Avidity and then to Rex Hill Winery.

It's a lesson, indeed, for anyone who might want to go and sample wines, and views, at these Parrett Mountain wineries. On Highway 99W there is no left turn allowed

when leaving Rex Hill: you have to take a right and head back toward Newberg. This makes it an ideal winery to visit when heading TOWARD the rest of Yamhill County Wine Country.

Next time, I will first deliver to Avidity, then head back west and easily swing in to Rex Hill.

And the overall lesson, for locals as well as visitors, is to study the freely-available winery maps (including Oregon Wine Press and willamettewines.com) and learn the lay of the roads as best you can.

That's the fourth and widest caveat, in this Wine Press Lessons loop.

And treat your designated driver to the nicest lunch. ■

BELOW: Roots Winery view



## Get curated Where to find collections of wines

With hundreds of wine stops in Yamhill County, how do you make up your mind? Perhaps you're short on time but you want to sample as much of what the regional has to offer, oenologically. Where to go?

There are choices: locations where more than one winery, and perhaps hundreds of varieties, are there to either sample or purchase.

**ACORN TO OAK:** Linfield University's downtown McMinnville wine bar is a good place to start, not just alphabetically, with rotating selections from 40 participating local wineries.

### VALLEY WINE MERCHANTS:

In downtown Newberg, this retail wine shop offers any of hundreds of bottles of wine, including a carefully-curated selection of half-bottles from the region and beyond.

### OREGON WINE COLLECTIVE:

Scheduled to open in spring 2026 in Dundee, this new tasting room will provide numerous samples from Wine Country.

**PRESS AND BARREL:** Located on the northeast edge of Newberg, this venue pours wine from multiple

participating local wineries from the Ribbon Ridge AVA.

### PARK + MAIN, CARLTON:

This pizza-forward restaurant features a well-curated selection of wines from near and far.

### CARLTON WINEMAKERS STUDIO:

Just north of Carlton on Highway 47 is this joint venture of a dozen or so small local, independent wine makers, who produce and pour from this location.

In addition, the wine sections at Roth's in McMinnville and Fred Meyer in Newberg offer ample varieties of area wines, and those from farther afield.



PHOTOS BY KIRBY-NEUMANN-REA

# A vineyard mixer

ABOVE: Domaine Drouhin, ABOVE RIGHT: Winter's Hill, BELOW RIGHT: Domain Serene

Long driveways, major views, winery pairs

by Kirby Neumann-Rea

**P**lenty of scenic Yamhill County wineries help give new meaning to “reach for the remote” -- as in a little far-flung.

Remote, but worth the drive. If you don't mind tracing a back road or a long driveway or both.

Here we'll take a look at selection of wineries that are down long country roads with their own oft-serpentine driveways to add to the anticipation of a state of the art tasting room and stunning panoramic views (or both).

We'll round it off with a list of neighboring wineries, some literally abutting each other, but start with a short list of tasting rooms that are no more than a block or two off the main drag.

Amity: Coelho

Carlton: Stone Griffon

Dundee: Dobbles Family Wines

Newberg: Bravuro Cellars

McMinnville: Lundeen Wines

**NEIGHBORS OR NEARBY**

These are either dovetailed or just down the road:

Gran Moraine next to Solena Estates, Woodland Loop, near Yamhill

Abbey Road borders Ghost Hill, Oak Springs Farm Road, near Carlton

Norris abuts Trisateum, Ribbon Ridge Road, Newberg

Aramanta next to Ayers, Calkins Drive, Yamhill

Arlyn and Adelsheim, Dobbs Road, Newberg

Alexana and Ambar, Worden Hill Road, Dundee

(Yes, many of the A wineries seem to stick together.)

Holloran and Winderlea, Worden Hill Road

Furioso and Cramoisi, Worden Hill Road

Balsall Cellars and DeLancellotti, Calkins Drive

Saffron Fields sits next to Lenne, Laughlin Road, Yamhill

Violin and Varnum, Eola Hills Road, Amity

Domaine Drouhin and Domaine Serene, Breyman Orchards Road, near Dayton

Coelho and Silas, downtown Amity

LucidWilde is a direct neighbor of Black Walnut Inn/ Four Graces tasting room, on Worden Hill Road.

There's no doubt others, with the Chehalem and Dundee

Hills AVAs being pretty well-packed with wineries.

**LONG, STUNNING DRIVEWAYS**

Here is a short list of long driveways: Penner Ash, Chehalem Hills; Compris, Chehalem Hills; Nysa, Dundee Hills; Coeur de Terre, McMinnville AVA; Corollary, Eola Hills; Brooks, Eola Hills; Youngberg Hill, McMinnville AVA; Winter's Hill, Dundee Hills

Lange Estates, Dundee Hills, may take the prize for longest, most serpentine route to an end-of-the-road tasting room – unless it's Winter's Hill in another section of Dundee Hills.

Lange: Go to the end of Worden Hill, with its remarkably steep final slope, take a left on Buena Vista through a residential area, then take a right down a long,



steep driveway that seems to be heading into the woods until you come around the final curve overlooking the tasting room parking lot, and then you see the facility and its deck, and the view of the Chehalem and Willamette valleys, all the way to Mt. Hood.

Winter's Hill: From McDougall Road take Breyman Orchards Road to Hilltop Road and take a left, passing the spectacular Domaine Serene complex, and stay on the gravel road a half mile as it dips and bends among oak stands and vineyards before terminating at the Winter's Hill patio.

**EOLA HILLS MULTI-PEAK SPLENDOR**

Here's one more route to take if you're as interested in drinking in expansive views as you are tasting fine wines: from Amity, drive south on 99W a few miles and answer the question of “what's on Yampo Road?” Named for the border of Yamhill and Polk counties, this backroad is like a scenic aperitif for visiting the numerous wineries a few miles east in the stunning Eola Hills.

Yampo starts as gravel for a mile or so before becoming asphalt as it climbs across Old Bethel Highway. For a few miles, you see little in the way of wineries other than the ultra-modern, bright orange Corollary Wines on Sartore Road, via Skyline Drive. Greatfull Gardens nearby is an excellent farmstand stop on

the perfectly-named Skyline: this section of road affords sublime views west to the Coast Range before the road dips back into the forest.

At the Eola Hills Road intersection, go east and uphill, and within about two miles you reach Eola Crest, where pullouts at Franquette or Walnut Roads offer the chance to stop and take in the four-mountain panorama: Mt. St. Helens to the north, Mt. Adams and then Mt. Hood to the north and east, and Mt. Jefferson to the southeast.

From here, the road drops down to a series of wineries that have wide and spectacular viewpoints of their own: Bravado, Brooks, and Mystic.

Nestled just below the crest are the double-V wineries 100 yards apart: Varnum and Violin. ■



# Rooted in Responsibility

Oregon's wine community demonstrates ecological stewardship and outstanding wines go hand in hand

by Michele Francisco

It was an honor just to be nominated." This phrase can sound cliché, especially during awards season. However, in this context, the sentiment is genuine.

Decades in the making, Oregon wine is having a much-deserved moment on the environmental stage. Still, readers may have missed a new category in Wine Enthusiast's 2025 Wine Star Awards: Environmental Advocate of the Year. The global shortlist of five nominees included not one, but two Oregonians.

## TWO PEAS IN A POD

While neither Craig Camp, general manager at Applegate Valley's Troon Vineyard & Farm, nor Mimi Casteel, owner and winemaker at Hope Well Wine in Sheridan, received the award, their nominations highlight something significant: the wine world is taking notice of Oregon's deep commitment to sustainable winemaking.

Casteel, who grew up at Bethel Heights Vineyard in Salem, worked as an ecologist and botanist for the U.S. Forest Service before returning to the family business. Today, she promotes regenerative farming practices, splitting her time between Bethel Heights and her own label.

When asked about the nomination, she notes, "It is an honor to stand with Craig and a sign of Oregon's potential to lead in the journey towards a future state of restored function and abundance."

Camp is the driving force behind Troon's dramatic shift from conventional farming to what is currently the world's only Demeter Biodynamic and Regenerative Organic Certified Gold winery.

In 2016, shortly after being hired, Camp began reviving the vineyard's depleted health. After years of standardized farming, it suffered from vine disease and soil compaction. A decade later, the farm is a model for regenerative agriculture.

Camp says, "Certainly, Mimi and I are honored, but these nominations should be considered a recognition of Oregon's entire wine industry and its commitment to responsible winemaking. It is also a recognition that implementing these concepts on your farm improves the quality and individual personality of the wines you make."

He continues, "I admire Mimi for following her personal vision on how to achieve these goals. Her leadership and creativity in finding practical solutions are both a gift and an inspiration to winemakers throughout the world."

## FARMING 101

Regenerative farming isn't merely a trend in Oregon; it's part of our state's winemaking DNA. With numerous certification options, vineyards and wineries are adopting programs that fit their needs while challenging them to improve.

Here are the certifications most commonly found in Oregon.

### LIVE

Formed in 1997, LIVE, an internationally accredited program, educates and certifies winemakers across the Northwest. The nonprofit promotes low-input farming and worker health and safety, along with reducing greenhouse gas emissions and encouraging habitat conservation, including native oaks. The most recent LIVE stats underscore Oregon's focus on sustainability: 255 certified vineyards, over 11,000 vineyard acres and 26,324 total farm acres (vineyard and other land). Nearly 6,200 acres are dedicated to biodiversity.

Beyond Oregon, there are two LIVE-certified vineyards on the Washington side of the Columbia Gorge, as well as five in Walla Walla, Washington.

Rachel Rose, Bryn Mawr Vineyards' winemaker and

vineyard director, recalls how she chose Oregon.

"The LIVE program was one of the things that initially drew me to the Pacific Northwest from abroad," explains Rose. "As a young viticulturist, I was struck by the region's forward-thinking approach to minimizing inputs in both the vineyard and winery. I thought it was an exciting concept and wanted to get involved. That desire led me to Ponzi Vineyards, one of the pioneers of LIVE."

After joining Bryn Mawr Vineyards, she began implementing new agricultural practices.

"We began farming to LIVE standards when I came on board to manage the vineyard in 2010. Bryn Mawr officially received our certification in 2019, and we are moving into our seventh year as LIVE members," reports Rose.

The LIVE program offers additional certifications with several partner organizations, including Salmon-Safe and Pollinator Partnership.



Look for the LIVE logo on the back label of a wine. Frequently, the Salmon-Safe and new Bee Friendly logos are printed there as well. (To learn more about the LIVE program, read "Certifiably Good," published in OWP's Feb. 2025 issue.)

### ORGANIC

Organic farming prohibits synthetic pesticides and genetically modified organisms.

Wine labels may state "made with organically grown grapes," or the wine itself may be USDA Organic certified, in which case it's made with organic grapes and contains no added sulfites.

Consumers should look for these statements or the Oregon Tilth logo on the back label.

As the second-largest



PHOTO BY ANDREA JOHNSON

wine-producing state, Washington is home to more than 900 wineries. Data from the Washington State Wine Commission reports 50,000 acres of vineyards planted in the state. A search of the USDA's Organic Integrity Database identified 33 certified organic wineries and vineyards. Four are located in the Walla Walla Valley and another four are in the Columbia Gorge. Together, these vineyards represent more than 2,500 acres of organically farmed land, including 232 acres in the Gorge and Walla Walla Valley.

By comparison, Oregon has 1,070 wineries and wine companies and nearly 47,500 planted acres, according to the Oregon Wine Board. Within the Organic Integrity Database, I found 44 wineries and vineyards are certified organic, covering a combined 3,100 reported acres.

If you're interested in learning more, the Organic Winemakers Network is hosting its second annual conference on

April 20-21. Consumers and trade can register at [organicwinegrowers.com](http://organicwinegrowers.com).

### BIODYNAMIC

Austrian scientist Rudolf Steiner popularized the principles of biodynamic farming in the mid-1920s with a lecture series titled "The Spiritual Foundations for the Renewal of Agriculture." He believed the entire farm should function as a single ecosystem rather than separate components. Steiner's biodynamic theories are incorporated in the Demeter Biodynamic Farm Standard. By following the outlined guidelines, farms can become certified biodynamic by the Demeter Association.

"The concept of 'whole farm,' seeing your farm as one living integrated organism, is the heart of biodynamics," describes Camp. "Troon is almost 100 acres, evenly divided between vineyard and other crops. Biodiversity is the secret weapon on an organic

*Continued on next page*

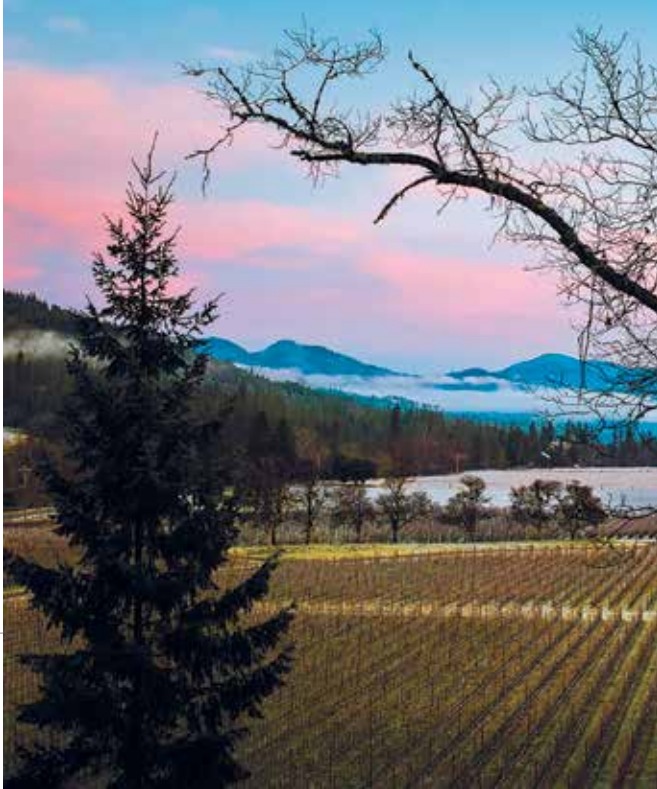


PHOTO PROVIDED BY COWHORN VINEYARD & GARDEN

**ABOVE LEFT:** Jacksonville's biodynamically farmed Cowhorn Vineyard  
**ABOVE RIGHT:** Results Partners' Ryan Wilkinson (left), walking in the vineyard with Rob Townsend, owner of Ambar Estate  
**BELOW:** White meadowfoam flowers serve as undervine weed suppression at Bryn Mawr Vineyards

PHOTO BY DAVID LAUER



# WINE

farm. Our goal is to achieve a balance and harmony with nature on our farm.”

Finding an ideal equilibrium requires effort, patience and attention. As Camp notes, “When a system is in balance, you need fewer inputs to grow successful crops. In our case, Troon has an integrated cider apple orchard, food forest, diverse cover crops, pollinator habitats, vegetable gardens, hay fields, re-wilded honeybees, along with sheep and chickens. Each of

these living systems brings unique microbiology and beneficial insects that spread throughout the farm.” He continues, “When planting the farm, we selected plants we believed would be the most successful. Now we are learning what each of them wants to give us.”

Jacksonville’s Cowhorn Vineyard & Garden, founded in 2005 by Barbara and Bill Steele, is counted as one of the first five biodynamic vineyards in the nation.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY COWHORN VINEYARD & GARDEN

## WEST COAST WINE STATS

### OREGON

Fourth largest wine producing state in the nation  
1,070 wineries/wine companies // 47,000 planted acres  
(Oregon Wine Board)

### WASHINGTON

Second largest wine producing state in the nation  
900 wineries // 50,000 vineyard acres  
(Washington State Wine Commission)

### CALIFORNIA

Largest wine producing state in the nation  
5,900 winegrape growers // 4,700 bonded wineries // 477,000 acres of winegrapes  
(Wine Institute)

Mini Byers, who purchased the property in 2021, explains why the site appealed to her. “When I first encountered Cowhorn, I was really just curious. It is such a small, boutique estate growing about 25 acres of Rhône varieties, farmed biodynamically, which immediately caught my attention. I have always been deeply drawn to Rhône varieties, and it is not something you see done with this level of intention in Oregon very often,” Byers admits.

She continues, “Originally, I came simply to taste and learn more about what Bill and Barbara had created. They were among the earliest certified organic and biodynamic vineyards in the United States, and certainly pioneers here in Oregon. During that visit, it became clear they were hoping to pass the property on, and somehow the stars aligned. What began as curiosity quickly turned into the opportunity to steward something truly special,” adds Byers.

Currently, Oregon has 21 U.S. Demeter-certified biodynamic vineyards and wineries, per the Demeter USA website. One of those vineyards is King Estate, the largest biodynamic

vineyard in North America. Only four vineyards in Washington are U.S. Demeter-certified, with one located in the Columbia Gorge.

According to the Wine Institute’s website, California has just 39 biodynamically-certified vineyards and wineries out of 5,900 winegrape growers, 4,700 bonded wineries and 477,000 acres of wine grapes.

### REGENERATIVE ORGANIC CERTIFIED

Regenerative Organic Certified, known as ROC, is the most stringent farming certification. Relatively new, it builds upon the USDA Certified Organic standards, with additional emphasis on three pillars: soil health and land management, animal welfare and farmer and worker fairness. The Regenerative Organic Alliance manages the certification process.

To date, two Oregon wineries have achieved ROC: Troon now has gold status and Ambar Estates has silver. One Washington winery, Estelbrook Farms and Vineyard, located in the Columbia Gorge, also has

## ORGANIC WINERIES & VINEYARDS

### OREGON

44 certified vineyards/wineries // 3,100 planted acres

### WASHINGTON

33 certified vineyards/wineries // 2,500 vineyard acres  
(USDA Organic Integrity Database)

### CALIFORNIA

678 producers // 33,500 harvested acres of winegrapes  
(California Agricultural Organics Report 2023-2024)

## DEMETER BIODYNAMIC WINERIES & VINEYARDS

### OREGON

21 certified vineyards/wineries

### WASHINGTON

4 certified vineyards/wineries

### CALIFORNIA

39 certified vineyards/wineries  
(Demeter USA)

## REGENERATIVE ORGANIC CERTIFIED WINERIES & VINEYARDS

### OREGON

2 certified vineyards/wineries

### WASHINGTON

1 certified vineyard/winery

### CALIFORNIA

23 certified vineyards/wineries  
(Regenerative Organic Alliance)

silver status.

“When I arrived at Troon, my goal was Demeter Biodynamic certification as I believed it was the ideal framework to bring this farm back to life. In 2019, we were certified by Demeter in the winery, and in 2020, we achieved our whole farm certification,” notes Camp. “That same year, we discovered the ROC and felt the three certification pillars aligned with Troon’s mission.”

Ambar Estate, located near Newberg, is the first ROC vineyard in the

Willamette Valley. When I ask owners, Rob Townsend and Pam Turner, why this particular certification was important, they explain, “When we acquired the land that has become Ambar Estate, we wanted to create a truly unique vineyard that could produce memorable wines with a sense of place. We were also determined to do so in an environmentally and socially responsible way. We wanted a science-based approach that went beyond organic farming, and as we dug deeper, it became clear that regenerative organic



PHOTO BY MOLLY BAILEY

BELOW LEFT: Mini Byers, owner of Cowhorn Vineyard & Garden  
ABOVE: Ambar Estate owners Pam Turner and Rob Townsend, posing with the winery’s Regenerative Organic Certified sign.

viticulture was the way to go. We appreciate its focus on improving soil health, minimal or no tilling, the use of compost, sheep grazing, enhancing resilience through biodiversity and promoting the welfare of our farmworkers. We decided to become Regenerative Organic Certified because we believe accountability is important.” Read “Mother Earth Needs Ewe,” published in OWP’s April 2023 issue, to learn more about these farming methods.

### BUILDING SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability extends well beyond farming. The U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is the world’s most widely used green building rating system. Here, Oregon is neck-in-neck with Washington— each state has three LEED-certified wine-related buildings. However, there is one significant distinction between our two states: Oregon’s buildings are privately owned wineries, whereas those in Washington

are all publicly owned (and funded) wine education facilities.

While converting a tractor barn at her Dayton property into a wine production facility, winemaker Remy Drabkin, owner of Remy Wines, wanted to use eco-friendly materials. Her search led to McMinnville contractor John Mead of Vesuvian Forge Concrete Surfaces. Together, they developed an environmentally-conscious concrete formula that sequesters carbon.

Drabkin notes, “Concrete is one of the most destructive materials on Earth, accounting for more than seven percent of global carbon emissions, so it is one of the greatest changes we need to make in construction. Ours was the first winery built with a carbon-sequestering concrete floor, using the Drabkin-Mead formula,” she shares. The durable formulation achieves its carbon-neutral state through

*Continued on next page*



PHOTO BY NICK HOOGENDAM

the use of biochar, a carbon-negative material made from pyrolyzing organic waste. Reclaimed materials found on the property, recycled winemaking equipment (such as wood from pallets) and items sourced from rebuilding centers were also used in the building's construction.

Read more about the Drabkin-Mead concrete and other ways wineries are conserving resources in "Pushing the Eco Envelope," published in OWP's March 2023 issue.

#### THE TREES AND THE BEES

Deforestation is a frequent headline today. Tree loss contributes significantly to climate change so Walla Walla Valley's Browne Family Vineyards created the Browne Forest Project. By partnering with One Tree Planted, the winery is poised to reach its goal of planting 1 million trees.

Andrew Browne, founder of Browne Family Vineyards, recalls, "We selected One Tree Planted as our partner in this mission because they make it simple to give back. They work directly with local reforestation organizations on the ground to create real, meaningful impact for nature,

people and wildlife. As of this month, The Browne Forest Project has planted 400,000 trees."

He goes on to explain how tree restoration helps the environment. "One Tree Planted taught us that—in addition to so many other benefits—trees help fight climate change, prevent soil erosion and support wildlife," notes Browne. "Here in the Pacific Northwest, we have felt firsthand the devastating impact of flooding and forest fires on our winemaking regions. The Browne Forest Project is our small, yet meaningful way to make change. These minor consistent actions can compound into something epic over time!"

By joining forces with nonprofit Pollinator Partnership, LIVE members are also certified as Bee Friendly. LIVE's executive director, Chris Serra, explains, "The Bee Friendly Farming partnership offers a significant amount of support to plant and protect pollinator habitat. They provide opportunities for our members to obtain plant material through various grants as well. They also help us include pollinator-specific standards in the LIVE

standard that we otherwise might not have had. LIVE members are encouraged to use the Bee Friendly logo on their wine labels," states Serra.

Drabkin, too, is abuzz about bees. "At Remy, we support pollinator populations in many ways. Over half of our 30-acres is riparian forest with natural water systems and the vineyard is LIVE certified. We follow more strict guidelines than the LIVE regulations, including not using glyphosate, which is extremely toxic to pollinators. Besides planting native plants and flowers, we worked with neighbor wineries and Oregon State University to create pollinator pathways for bees and butterflies between our properties," Drabkin reports.

#### PROVING IT WORKS

While good farming practices may produce warm, fuzzy feelings, do they actually

improve soil and vine health? The people I spoke with agree science is essential to measuring and tracking true success.

Casteel voices her thoughts: "Yes, I believe that we cannot rely on our senses alone to understand the processes we steward. Following data on my own farm has always been important, but I also believe what we learn together as peers can take us much farther. I feel it's also important to work with and encourage groups of colleagues to measure and share results. By aggregating information, we can learn more broadly from the patterns that emerge."

After prioritizing specific biodynamic techniques, including partnering with nearby Noble Dairy, Byers notes progress. "We closely monitor vineyard health through soil analysis and



PHOTO PROVIDED BY BROWNE FAMILY VINEYARDS

PHOTO BY CHERYL JUETTEN



**ABOVE LEFT:** Remy Drabkin, owner of Remy Wines, standing on the carbon-sequestering concrete floor she helped develop.  
**BELOW LEFT:** Bottles of Browne Family Vineyards' wine in a forest.  
**ABOVE:** Remy Wines' owner, winemaker and pollinator advocate, kneeling next to a bee box.

ongoing sampling. We track indicators such as organic matter, nitrogen levels, microbial life and overall soil vitality. We also evaluate the fruit itself, from grape chemistry through fermentation and the resulting wines," she shares. "Over the past few years, Cowhorn has seen clear improvements in vine balance and soil vitality. The vineyard feels more alive and resilient, and that vitality ultimately carries through to our wines in their natural balance, energy and expression of place."

Camp concurs on the importance of measuring and tracking the results of the many efforts implemented at the farm. He explains Troon's process and philosophy. "We practice what I call practical biodynamics. I believe it is a toolbox of probiotic preparations that feed and strengthen the natural systems of the soil and plants. Probiotics are everywhere now; there is not a drugstore in the country without racks of them," Camp quips.

"Troon's team is science-driven. Our director of agriculture, Garrett Long, leads our biodynamic program.

He has a Master's in soil science from UC Davis and finds soil testing a vital tool both as a requirement of our certifications, but also when making our farming decisions. Regular soil testing has proven levels of organic matter have dramatically increased," reports Camp. "Those results are visible in the health of our vines, from leaf-blade and petiole sampling and consistently improving must chemistry. Healthier soils make healthier vines, which in turn produce healthier wines to drink," adds Camp.

He concludes with an astute observation: "From LIVE to organic certified vineyards to demanding certifications like Demeter Biodynamic and Regenerative Organic, Oregon leads the American wine industry in producers that care about the impact of their work on the environment and making life on Earth better for the generations that follow us."

#### CULTIVATING THE FUTURE

Across Oregon, from pollinator pathways to biodynamic vineyards, winemakers are redefining what stewardship looks like

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### Random Wine Facts

- Not all wines are vegan.
- Wine-flavored Kit Kats are a thing.
- Italy has a free, 24-hour wine fountain.
- Not all wines improve with age.
- "Drinking to one's health" started in ancient Greece.
- Toasting originated in ancient Rome.
- World's oldest bottle is from 325 A.D.
- Oenophobia (fear of wine) is a thing.
- Wine is fat-free and cholesterol-free.
- The lip of a red wine glass is sloped to help send aromas to your nose.

in the modern wine industry. Their work reflects a simple but powerful idea: when the land thrives, the vines follow—and the wines tell that story.

Byers shares her thoughts on land stewardship. "I have learned you must be incredibly diligent and deeply connected to the vineyard itself. The goal is not simply to grow grapes but to cultivate vitality in the soil and broader ecosystem around the vines. When that vitality is present, the vineyard begins to find its own balance, and the wines express more deeply the place they come from."

"Oregon wine was shaped by a belief that the grapes speak for the land, and the land must be treated with great care and respect. This is the foundation of Oregon wine—where authenticity meets creativity—and each bottle represents the quality brought to life by the unique soils,

aspect and climate of each Oregon wine region," observes Gina Bianco, Oregon Wine Board executive director. "It is this distinctiveness that motivates winemakers to embrace and carry on environmental stewardship traditions and winemakers to bring the sense of place to life in each world-class Oregon wine."

The nominations of Camp and Casteel may have brought national attention to Oregon's environmental leadership, but they represent a much broader movement. Across the state, winemakers are proving that stewardship, science and sustainability can coexist with exceptional wine. As Oregon's vineyards continue to evolve, it's becoming increasingly clear the future of wine is rooted not just in the glass—but in the health of the land itself. ■



PHOTO BY KIRBY-NEUMANN-REA

**LEFT:** The Pub  
**ABOVE RIGHT:** Hotel Oregon manager Em Thomas, in the Carter the Great cellar bar  
**BELOW RIGHT:** HiFi Wine Bar

# Mac drinking establishments

by Kirby Neumann-Rea

In McMinnville, it might be hard to choose from the varied fine drinking establishments we have, and they do vary greatly, from tony wine bar to classic downtown dive.

Here are some tips and insights to help in your selection:

Cabana Club on Third Street is where things get noisy. It's got a full-service bar and kitchen, a dance floor and regular DJ music, pool tables, and some of the most

whimsical décor in town, replete with hats, bikes and surfboards.

Conservatory Bar, as the only drinking establishment on First Street, is a little out of the way but with a top-flight bar menu and small-but-select beer list as an option to the genuine mixology you can expect from this casual place with a neighborhood feel.

The Bitter Monk – taproom not brewery. The smaller of McMinnville's distinctive downtown taprooms, the Monk features a 15-tap system, well-curated by Becky

Turner, long-time manager and beer savant who bought the place in mid-2025. The Bitter Monk got written up in 2025 in a national publication as a brewery, and folks were recently heard asking, if this was “Bitter Monk Brewery?” Repeat, damned fine beer bar, but not a brewery. It's at Third and Cows and, yes, it is “just a taproom,” but if somehow what's on draught does not appeal, choose something from the cooler: Turner stocks a well-collated selection of foreign and domestic beers and ciders, something for every taste – and the corkage fee is waived during happy hour. No food on premises, but feel free to bring it in from a neighboring restaurant.

Turner expanded the seating, updated the furnishings, and rebranded the Monk in 2025.

In winter, the space is inviting and in good weather there's ample outdoor seating and a great place to soak up the Third Street vibe – muffler noise and all.

Blue Moon Lounge: Did we mention dive bar? In the best sense of the term, this long, narrow downtown anchor has been serving up reliable drinks to go with its steaks and burgers for 103 years. The neon sign on Third is iconic, and the classic feel of the place is best felt in the deep and spacious booths. Oh, but, remember this is still a cash-only establishment.

Dave's Station: The former Shell gas station and auto repair shop is the newest place in the downtown beverage scene. Local and regional beer and wine taps are featured and in the food court are six different food trucks ranging from Philly cheese steaks to Indian. There's indoor seating and a heated outdoor canopy where the pumps used to be.

In 2023, Dave Williams retired after 50 years running the gas station and auto repair, and new owners Edwin and Marissa Martinis honored William's memory both in the name and look of their new establishment at Southwest Adams and Seventh Street. From the internal signage (“Transmissions” and “Lube

PHOTO BY RACHEL THOMPSON



Jobs”) to retention of the “Service is Our Business” sign on the outside – and the Shell sign itself, the place is a piece of McMinnville history preserved.

Dave's automotive days are over, the only lubrication on site now is pouring of beers, but it retains that feel. Dave himself was among the first customers on opening night in August 2025. Staff wears classic gas attendant shirts, all embroidered with the same name: Dave, of course. (Available as merch, too.) The “No Smoking/Turn Off Your Motor” sign is kept intact, along with the plastic thermometer that's been by the front door for a half-century and counting. The counter is a moto-mosaic of vehicle plates from all 50 states, with Williams' “DAVE W” front and center.

1882 Saloon: A spacious bar and deck await atop the KAOS Building at Third and Galloway, located above Chris James tasting room.

Gem Creole Saloon: The restaurant returned in late 2025 after a five-year closure, offering gumbo, etouffe, oysters and more. It's located next to LaRambla tapas restaurant, a mainstay downtown restaurant with a full bar of its own.

Grizzly Growlers, on Northeast Baker, is an

intimate place with 32 taps and seating indoors and out, a small but select cooler with beers to go (though not so much growlers anymore), and big screens for sports.

Hi Fi Wine Bar – This place features a walk-around rectangular bar, comfy window seating and rows of wine bottles and LPs – make your selection and staff will put on the Miles Davis or Beatles while you choose from the local Martin Woods Winery or literally a world of oenological options. The pool table dominates the far end of the bar, one tip of the hat to the former rendition of the place, the popular pool hall tavern (and music venue) known as The Deluxe. A side room retains the stained glass windows from The Deluxe days.

Joysticks Arcade on Third Street is what it says: two large rooms (and a hallway) filled with video and simulated-play games, but there is also pizza and beer and cider.

McMenamins Hotel Oregon: You might have visited any number of McMenamins' chain of restored locations – old schools, churches, lodges, etc. – but never seen anything quite like Hotel Oregon. Smack in the middle of downtown, the former hotel-turned-apartment building, all but abandoned through

the 1980s and 1990s, is now a woody hotel and restaurant with a warren of places to eat and drink, starting with the main bar and neighboring Paragon Room and tiny Carter the Great bar on the ground floor (ask for it for you and perhaps five of your best friends).

Go high or go low at Hotel Oregon: downstairs in the ultra-cozy Cellar Bar or take the stairs or elevator to the Rooftop Bar. We recommend the stairs, as a way to view some of the finest examples of bizarre art you'll find in any McMenamins.

You can dine or drink on three levels on the parapet-like Rooftop, but even in inclement weather there's a comfortable interior with an atrium; the space can make you feel like you're waiting for a train in the station in Amsterdam.

The Pub, recently acquired and remodeled by the Carlton-based Ground hospitality group, is a full-service restaurant with a cozy

mezzanine and small side spaces on the ground floor.

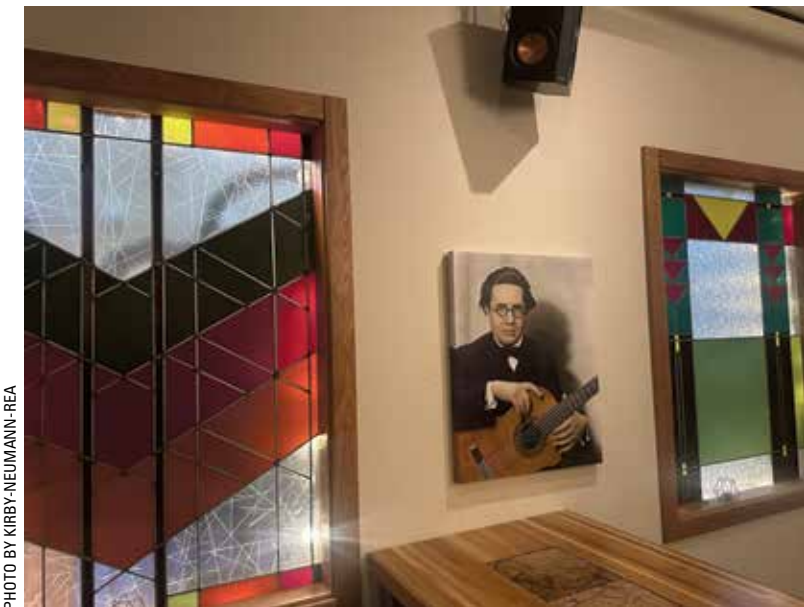
Refire Bar on Southeast Davis just off Third has speakeasy feel as former “Nick's Backroom”; enter via Nick's Italian Cafe or through an uninviting alley ... it's okay, go ahead ... on Davis Street next to Spices and Slices restaurant (new in early 2026).

What was once the barren storeroom for Nick's, which set national standards of superb Italian dining as early as 1977 when Nick Peirano opened it in a former storefront diner, was later turned into the popular “back room” watering hole. Ownership has changed from the Peirano family since and, after a long closure, the back room reopened in early 2024 as Refire. The bar menu comes from the same excellent kitchen and, if you're in the mood for a Malort shot, this is the place to get it.

Stickmen Brewery on Lafayette Avenue provides pizza to go with a wide

*Continued on next page*

PHOTO BY KIRBY-NEUMANN-REA



selection – name the style, they’ll have it – brewed at the brewery’s Tualatin base.

Just down the street is 1109 Lafayette, McMinnville’s newest all-indoor establishment, with an emphasis on traditional cocktails and some original ones.

Back downtown: Thistle is among McMinnville’s best-kept secrets, semi-hidden on Evans Street just off Third, it’s a small, award-winning restaurant with one of the coziest bars in town.

The brown-paper window coverings at a prominent Third Street building came down in September, to reveal the drastic remodeling that went on inside the former

Taylor-Dale Hardware Store. The corner at Third and Ford is now Tributary Coffee and Market with coffee and light snacks on the menu, and a selection of to-go lunches, as well as wine and other beverages. The upper floors are the toney Tributary Hotel, and next door on the ground floor is Okta restaurant.

The Tributary market space did used to be Two Dogs Taphouse, which is doing quite alright three years after being dislodged from its carefully-remodeled original home in the former Taylor Dale. Two Dogs resettled at Fourth and Evans, transforming the historic Spring Building into a popular dining and drinking spot, one with an increasing variety of

live music. With plenty of TV screens it serves as sports bar as well as convivial tap room. In 2023, after extensive remodeling, it reopened and emerged as one of downtown’s busiest drinking spots.

Choose between the busy room next to the bar (40 taps) or the large dining area in the next room ... or snag the small corner room with living-room-style seating. Or ask for the Dog House: perfect for a group of 8-10, you are surrounded by a canine gallery: the owners dogs, friends’ dogs, patrons’ dogs. It’s just plain the sweetest drinking space in town. (And the pooch pix have overflowed onto a wall in the north dining room.)

Sidenote on the Alpine

Avenue Drinking District: it could be the unofficial name for the stretch (north-bound starting at Seventh Avenue) including: Grain Station Beer Works/Alpine Crossing/The Eyrie Vineyards Tasting Room/Heater Allen Brewery/Mac Market, all on Alpine, and also taking in Stickmen Brewery and 1109 Lafayette, a block over on Lafayette between 10th and 12th.

Want breweries? Wine bars? We haven’t forgotten them.

There are two breweries on Third Street and two more just a few blocks away in the Alpine District, Heater Allen on 10th Avenue, with a recently-remodeled taproom and spacious beer garden. Brassi’s wood fired pizza is in

permanent residence. This is the home of both Heater Allen and companion label Gold Dot, the second brewery to arrive in town and just down the street from one of the county’s founding wineries, The Eyrie Vineyards, with its classic cave tasting room.

Two blocks away at Alpine and Eighth is spacious Grain Station Brew Works, with ample seating indoors and the largest patio in town. House-made beers range from venerable Walnut City Red to IPAs and sours, and the restaurant features a full menu.

ForeLand Beer is near the heart of town but tucked away, at the dead-end of Fourth Street. In summer, the beer garden is mostly shaded, in winter the Barrel Room is a cozy place to drink the beer in the same room as the keg storage (Sign: “Quiet: Sleeping Beer”) and there is a pleasant inside/outside seating section. Food trucks on site make this a beer-and-comfort food destination. Large screens and additional seating was added last year to the Barrel Room. ForeLand recently reopened its southeast Portland outpost, The Study, after a two-year period.

On Third Street, just four blocks apart, are Golden Valley Brewery, the county’s first brewery, with its spacious, wood-lined bar and dining room (look for dark and barrel-aged stouts each winter), and Bierly Brewing, notable for its cafe and bakery that, like the beer, is all gluten-free.

Speaking of gluten-free, it might be a quirk of McMinnville that it has two of the three such breweries in Oregon. The other is Evasion

Brewing, on Riverside Drive on the far eastern edge of town, a half-mile down from Cascade Steel Rolling Mills. The owners expanded the indoor tap room two years ago, and Evasion also has an outpost in Southeast Portland.

Wine tasting: Let’s start with three tasting rooms that are off the beaten path in McMinnville. Two that are located in the Granary District are Winderlea and Brittan. Another is Lundeen Wines, across town at 16th and Evans – the rare winery located across the street from a high school. (The winery’s former name, Walnut City, can still be seen on a sign two blocks away on Highway 99.)

Yes, McMinnville is the heart of Wine Country, with at least 13 wine bars downtown, all with different personalities:

Moving through the alphabet streets on or just off Third Street, Baker down to Galloway, in rough order are: The Grove, Jacob Williams, Wrigley Vineyards/Garibaldi Cellars, Bjornson, R. Stuart & Co., Northwest Food and Gifts/NW Cru, Pinot Vista/Eola Hills, Celestial Hill, Acorn and Oak, Terra Vina, Troon, Chris James, HiFi and Pike Road.

(Willamette Valley Winery closed in mid-2025, replaced by a vintage store.) ■

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**LEFT:** Nick's Marinated skirt steak served with crispy potatoes, tender broccolini, and topped with house-made garlic & herb gremolata

## Dining in Yamhill County

Where Wine Country Comes to the Table

by VG Staff

Yamhill County has long been known for Pinot noir, vineyard vistas and tasting rooms tucked into some of the most beautiful hill country in Oregon. The emergence as a wine mecca was followed by another reputation as one of the Northwest's most inviting food destinations — not because it imitates Portland, San Francisco or Napa, but because it has developed a dining culture all its own.

Here, wine country food does not mean only linen tablecloth dinners and special-occasion tasting menus. It also means wood-fired pizza after a day of wine tasting, tacos and sandwiches that locals swear by, bakeries worth building a morning around, farm-driven bistros, lively hotel restaurants, casual pubs, destination dinners, coffee shops, brunch rooms and chef-led kitchens using ingredients grown within a short drive of the table.

That variety is the real story.

McMinnville anchors much of the county's dining identity. Its historic downtown, especially Third Street, has become a walkable corridor of restaurants, wine bars, bakeries, tasting rooms and cafes. Visitors can move easily from a morning pastry to a midday tasting, from an informal lunch to an ambitious dinner, all without losing the relaxed feel of a working Oregon town.

Some names have become part of McMinnville's food vocabulary. Bistro Maison has

long offered French country cooking in a warm downtown setting. Nick's Italian Cafe helped put McMinnville on the culinary map years ago and remains part of the city's dining heritage. Thistle, with its wine-country bar atmosphere, helped define the small, seasonal, locally minded dining style that now feels natural in the valley.

La Rambla has added its own flavor of fusion where Northwest meets the world; and its recently re-opened, sibling eatery Gem Creole Saloon brings the Cajun flavor to downtown. More recent restaurants such as Grounded Table, Pura Vida, okta and Abuela's Nuestra Cocina have added new energy, emphasizing local farms, Oregon ingredients and a more contemporary approach to wine-country dining.

McMinnville also has become more than a dinner town. Mac Market has helped broaden the scene with a lively food-hall and market spirit, while bakeries, coffee shops and casual lunch spots give visitors reasons to start their day downtown rather than simply arrive for dinner. The result is a city where food tourism and local life overlap. People come for wine weekends, but they also find the kind of practical, high-quality dining that serves residents year-round.

Newberg offers a different

but equally important expression of Yamhill County dining. As a gateway to Oregon wine country, it combines resort dining, intimate fine dining and increasingly diverse casual choices. The Allison Inn & Spa's JORY has become one of the best-known wine-country restaurants in Oregon, pairing refined service with Willamette Valley ingredients and a serious wine program. The Painted Lady gives Newberg a destination fine-dining presence in a historic setting. Rosmarino Osteria Italiana has drawn attention for Italian cooking with personality and polish, while Newbergundian Bistro reflects the town's appetite for approachable, satisfying wine-country food. New to the scene is Clementine, dubbed "Newberg's Livingroom," which is brought to you by the team who's made Loam in Dayton a brunch favorite.

Newberg's strength is balance. It can serve the visitor looking for an elegant anniversary dinner, the wine traveler wanting a memorable lunch, or the local family looking for a reliable evening out. Its restaurants benefit from nearby vineyards, farms and tourism traffic, but the best of them do not feel like tourist props. They feel rooted.

Dundee, though smaller, plays an outsized role because it sits in the middle of some of Oregon's most famous vineyard land. Dining there often becomes part of the wine-tasting route itself. Travelers move between tasting rooms, hilltop

views and restaurants that understand the rhythm of a day in wine country: lighter midday meals, flexible menus, good glass pours and food that complements rather than competes with the wine. Dundee's appeal is not simply the number of places to eat, but the way food, wine and landscape sit so close together.

Carlton brings its own charm. Its compact downtown has tasting rooms, cafes, bakeries and relaxed dining within easy walking distance. It feels less like a polished resort center and more like a small wine town that still remembers it is a town. James Beard Awards recognized Hayward has added to the menu that includes Cuvee, The Horse Radish, Blind Pig and Park & Main.

Dayton and Amity add further variety. Dayton has the Joel Palmer House, one of Oregon wine country's most established destination restaurants, known for mushroom-focused cuisine and deep wine-country roots. Amity has gained increasing attention through Antica Terra, where the wine experience has expanded into memorable food as well. These smaller communities remind visitors that Yamhill County dining is not confined to the larger towns. Some of the most distinctive experiences are found just off the main route.

What makes the county special is the combination: vineyards, farms, orchards, dairies, bakeries, chefs,

winemakers and small-town main streets. The area offers polished dining without losing informality, ambition without pretension, and scenic beauty without turning every meal into a luxury exercise.

Yamhill County's food scene works because it has many layers. A visitor can plan a weekend around high-end dinners and rare wine pairings. Another can enjoy pizza, tacos, sandwiches, pastries and tasting-room snacks and come away just as satisfied. Locals can celebrate birthdays, meet friends for breakfast, take clients to lunch, or send visitors to a restaurant that shows off the county well.

That is why "foodie destination" is not too grand a label for Yamhill County. The phrase fits — provided it is understood in the Oregon wine-country sense. This is not a place built around flash. It is built around taste, setting, craft and hospitality. The food is good because the place is good: fertile, scenic, independent, creative and still human-scaled.

In McMinnville, Newberg, Dundee, Carlton, Dayton, Amity and the roads between them, Yamhill County has turned dining into one more way to experience Oregon wine country — one plate, one glass and one view at a time. ■



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- Golden Valley Brewery, McMinnville  
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- Grain Station Brew Works, McMinnville  
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- The Joel Palmer House, Dayton  
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- JORY Restaurant of The Allison, Newberg  
[theallison.com/jory](http://theallison.com/jory)
- The Larson House, Yamhill  
[larsonhouseyamhill.com](http://larsonhouseyamhill.com)
- McMenamins Hotel Oregon, McMinnville  
[mcmenamins.com/hotel-oregon](http://mcmenamins.com/hotel-oregon)
- The Painted Lady, Newberg  
[thepaintedladyrestaurant.com](http://thepaintedladyrestaurant.com)
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<b>LA RAMBLA RESTAURANT &amp; BAR</b> 238 NE 3rd St McMinnville 503-435-2126 <a href="http://laramblaonthird.com">laramblaonthird.com</a>	<b>PAPA MURPHY'S</b> 1049 NE Hwy 99W McMinnville 503-472-2536 <a href="http://locations.papamurphys.com/or/mcminnville">locations.papamurphys.com/or/mcminnville</a>

### Food for Thought

- The word restaurant is French, originally meaning "food that restores."
- Believe it or not, more Americans order their meat well-done or medium-well than they do rare or medium-rare.
- The oldest American restaurant still in service today is Boston's Union Oyster House, founded in 1826. The oldest fast food restaurant chain is White Castle, founded in 1921 in Wichita, Kansas.
- The average American eats 46 slices of pizza every year. Pepperoni is the most popular pizza topping; anchovies, the least.
- Approximately 14.7 million people work in the restaurant industry. One-third of Americans' first job was in a restaurant.
- The busiest day of the year for restaurants is Mother's Day

INFORMATION FROM [PDS.TOASTTAB.COM/BLOG/ON-THE-LINE](http://PDS.TOASTTAB.COM/BLOG/ON-THE-LINE)

### Eating Healthy

- Decode the Menu: Look for items that are baked, broiled, grilled, poached, steamed or roasted.
- Veggies First: Start your meal with a salad or eat your vegetables first; you'll feel full sooner and ensure you're consuming valuable nutrients.
- Split Your Dish: Save calories by sharing a meal or saving half for the following day.
- Choose Your Sauce: Pick sauces made from vegetables like marinara, rather than cream or butter sauces, to limit calories.



## Where to find parks (and other activities) around McMinnville

by Kirby Neumann-Rea

Downtown McMinnville and the nearby Alpine District and Linfield University provide plenty of activity and diversion but the west side of McMinnville, while predominately residential, has plenty to offer.

This starts with five underappreciated parks. We start with a pair of large parks: Westside Neighborhood Park, west of Hill Road, and Discovery Meadows, on Cypress near Old Sheridan Road.

Both are wide open green spaces that are perfect for when you want a quiet place

to picnic and then get in a few steps, maybe toss the frisbee around.

(Note that as of spring 2026 the city of McMinnville has started taking a long look at expanding and increasing its parks to serve more areas of the community. This review is what's on the ground now.)

Discovery Meadows has a summer splash pad as well as a small skatepark, one of two in town. The other is at Joe Dancer Park on the east side of town.

Then there is the little-known Quarry Park, next to Calvary Church on West Second near Hill Road. The former quarry, listed officially as open space

since it is undeveloped, is nearly surrounded by trees and, while destined someday for some form of development, right now it has no benches, restrooms or other amenities. Yet it is accessible via the church parking lot or by a short trail in a residential area on the north side of the park. Some informal trails go through the park – there's bike tracks so be alert to two-wheel users – and around the quarry area, which has a partial fence and a sign warning of “sharp drop-off”. Otherwise, there is no outright indication it is a city park.

Other westside parks are fully developed and link and

nearly merge. It gets a bit complicated but bear with us.

Two long, lean parks with walking in common are West McMinnville Linear Park, based near West Second, and the Westside Bicycle/Pedestrian Greenway. Winding through residential areas, Linear and Greenway parks both provide paths and green spaces, and Greenway blends into Jay Pearson Neighborhood Park.

One can spend a few hours discovering just how connected are all these parks and pedestrian ways.

Of particular note is the specially-designed all-abilities playground at Pearson, a few blocks off Southwest Hill Road: take Northwest 23rd and turn right on Yohn Ranch Road (sounds rural but it's residential.)

The Greenway starts a bit north, off Baker Creek Road, and runs north-south – mostly flat until you get to some steep switchbacks at Wallace Road. Head to the top of that hill and take in a Coast Range view from a view plaza, with bench.

Heading south toward Linear Park, the going is a flat, surface trail system running east-west, with a couple of basketball hoops, and benches. It stretches from Southwest Westvale Street east to Southwest Agee. The cross-street with Westvale is Southwest Sesame. (Yes, McMinnville has a Sesame Street.)

The Linear Park and the Greenway nearly hook up, as a spur in Linear Park extends north to West Second. That's a short distance from the Greenway's south terminus, just east on Northwest Meadows Drive.

The city's largest park, aside from Discovery Meadows and Joe Dancer, is City Park adjacent to downtown. The upper park is home to an expansive playground, and abuts both McMinnville Library and Aquatic Center. The lower park, accessible by trail or car, features a picnic area graced by Cozine Creek, and walking trails. On the west end of the park is a pickleball complex. In upper and lower park, find signs and artifacts describing McMinnville's role as an agricultural mill town in the 19th century.

### BUT, BACK ON HILL ROAD ...

There, in the mounds at the center of the roundabouts are two pieces of art: Travis Stewart's “Coyote” to the north and Lee Kelly's “Nepal II” to the south.

Copious public art can be found throughout downtown, and at Linfield University, but throughout the rest of the city there is little to be found except at Joe Dancer and around McMinnville High School. Which makes the two Hill Road roundabout pieces stand out.

The other peripheral

feature in northwest McMinnville, adjacent to the Baker Creek roundabout, is the venerable Draper's Farms farmstand, 11105 S.W Baker Road, a four-generation farm selling produce from more than 200 varieties of fruits and vegetables, open daily from 9 a.m. to dusk. Assuming it resists the residential growth that is gradually replacing open spaces in this section of town, it's likely to remain in place for generations longer.

### MORE FUN TO BE HAD

There is always more to say about parks and outdoor recreation in McMinnville: take a walk in the forest without leaving town at Rotary/Tice Park on Baker Creek Road. Nearby, find another source of contemplation at the Labyrinth, open during daylight hours, on Burnett Road at the McMinnville Cooperative Ministries Parkview community garden and greenspace. It's located on the north edge of town off Baker Creek Road. It is free and open during daylight hours.

Raining but want to get your steps in? The indoor walking track at McMinnville Community Center, Fifth and Evans streets, is on the second floor of the building that used to be the Armory. It's a bit dark, with no natural light, but usually uncrowded – just check the sign for which direction to go: clockwise or counter-clockwise on alternating days. You get a sense of history as you do your



PHOTOS BY KIRBY-NEUMANN-REA

LEFT PAGE: Quarry Park  
ABOVE: Draper Farms farmstand

laps. Pickleball or basketball action might be on view on the gymfloor below.

And check out the table tennis and upstairs game room for the kids.

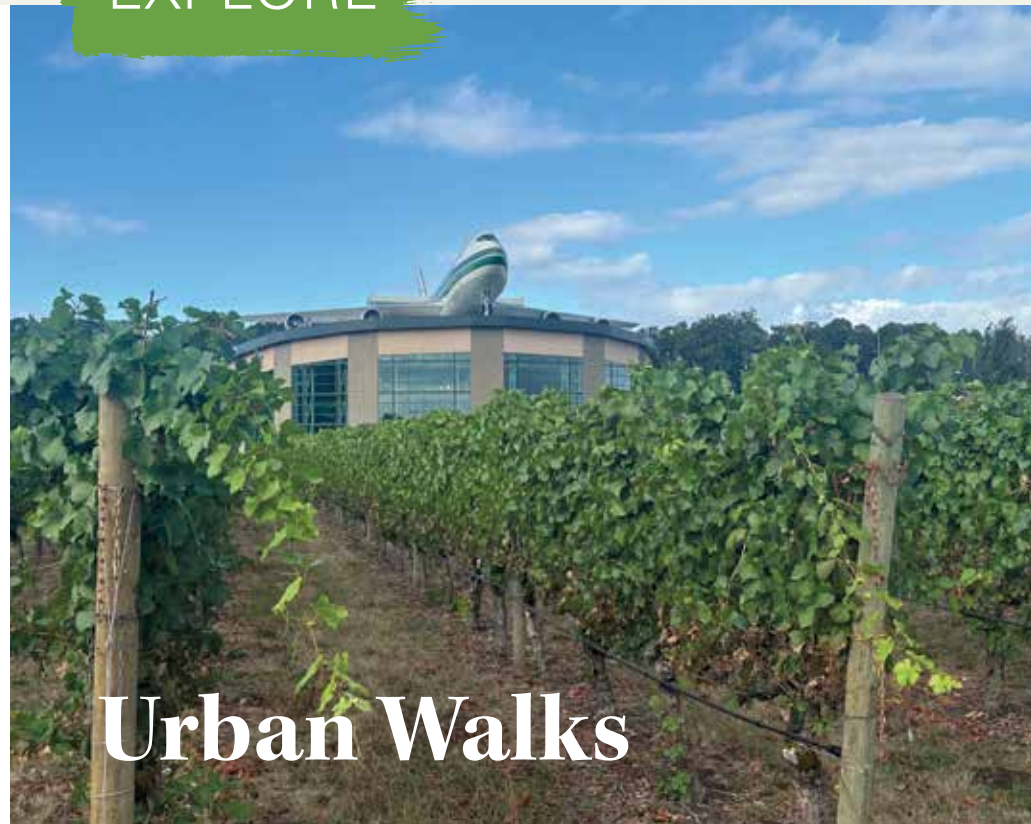
If it's disk golf you're after, head to Wortman Park in northeast McMinnville; find the course map and description at the parking lot on the Lafayette Avenue side.

Wortman features picnic areas, shelters, a softball diamond, playground and restrooms, as well as large grassy areas and ample oak and conifer coverage.

Also, an odd one, at Linfield University: the small course on the oak grove is managed by Linfield communications employee and disk golf pro

Chase Estep and might make brief appearances depending on events in that busy commons. If you see that any of the disk golf baskets happen to be up you can always ask permission at the school; otherwise, the closest ones are Newberg's Herbert Hoover Park and Wennerberg Park in Carlton.

(Remember what Steve Martin said about the French? “They have a word for EVERYthing!” So it seems with disk golf. I looked up disk golf “goal,” and it runs out they call it a hole, the apparatus being the basket. Then there's Albatross, Hyzer, Anhyzer, Mando, Overstable, Tree Love, Noodle Arm, and more; have fun and look them up.) ■



## Urban Walks

by YVVG Staff

**M**ac is a walking town. Like any town it has its defining car traffic-heavy routes but plenty of great pedestrian zones and routes invite exploration.

We start at the heart of downtown:

### ART ALLEY AND BEYOND

At this point it might be possible for McMinnville, if it did not already have so much else going for it, to promote itself as a “mural town.” Most of what follows is accessible in an hour- or two-walk.

In the greater downtown and neighboring Gateway District are 10 different large exterior murals on surfaces ranging from the library to a storage building

to a former church.

And that number does not include what is known as Art Alley, created in 2024 in a once-dark and decrepit alley linking Davis and Evans streets between Third and Fourth streets. In that one-block stretch are 10 murals dealing with local flora and fauna, history and culture. You can see them 24-7, thanks to ample lighting. One end is Natalie Fletcher’s visual ode to cars and nature, on the other the panoramic postcard of essential McMinnville ingredients, by Colt Bowden.

Not far way, between Cows and Adams streets, are four murals: the Rosemarie Caughran mural celebrating a long-time community volunteer, a triptych across the street by Linfield University students, the “True Vine” on a former church

along Adams, and across the street from there, a library mural dedicated to reading and the literacy program Start Making A Reader Today.

On Third Street near Irvine find “The Heist,” a large image of whimsy involving grapes and butterflies.

Two blocks south on First, a melange of UFOs, guitars, bicycles and many other symbols of McMinnville.

On Alpine Avenue is “Around the Bend,” the town’s largest mural, celebrating the history of train travel in Yamhill County.

Three blocks away on 11th Avenue just off Lafayette Avenue, find a photo-realistic recreation of the 1950 Trent Farm UFO sighting, done in 2024.

Indoor murals are also on view inside the city library, McMinnville Community

Center, Flag and Wire Coffee in the Alpine, and at Douglas on Third hotel.

(Nearing completion in the winter of 2025-26 is a giant mural, UFO-themed, on the north wall of the Smooth Roots store next to Walmart on Highway 99W, and at Linfield University, a wall on the art center on Keck Drive gets a new mural every year.)

### ROSE WALK

Close to downtown is this short walk. Consider it a pre- or post-prandial eight-block amble to pair with a dinner at any of the fine Third Street restaurants. Its turn-around point is a pedestrian alley unlike anything else in town.

From Third Street head south down Cows Street, past city hall and the Mediterranean-looking First Baptist Church (it turns 100 in 2026). A block farther, Cows takes a slight jog at Lincoln; keep going as Cows narrows and the homes get closer together in one of McMinnville’s older, denser neighborhoods. (There’s a Little Library on the east side of the street.)

On this section of Cows there are no cross streets but after about two blocks you come to the turn-around point: Rose Walk, on the west side of the street. It kind of sneaks up on you, this narrow, two-block lane wide enough for two pedestrians. In one of the more charming sidewalk imprints in town are the words, there at your feet: “Rose Walk,” inscribed by someone a hundred or more years ago.

The lane ends one block west at busy Baker Street and, to be clear, Rose Walk is a little on the rough side, but worth a stroll for its uniqueness.

To return downtown, retrace your steps or follow Rose Walk and head north on Baker, avoiding the hubbub by tucking down Lincoln and looping back to Cows, or proceed to Davis and then the next block, Washington, for a quiet neighborhood stroll zone to carry you back to Third Street.

### COZINE CREEK, LINFIELD UNIVERSITY

Also accessible from downtown, on Southeast Baker, is the Cozine Creek trail on the north edge of the university campus. It is open to the public and accessible, though maintenance and upkeep is minimal and sporadic. (See “Rose Walk” and stay south on Cows and over to Baker, to find the brick archway that begins the Cozine experience.)

The trail also has definite

history. Access is through the brick gateway with a plaque commemorating its dedication by the Linfield Class of 1931. (It’s next to the new MV Advancements headquarters on the site of the old Columbus School, demolished after a 1993 earthquake damaged it.) From the brick structure the trail drops sharply down a set of stairs, and proceeds through cuts in large wind-fallen oak trees, and across a footbridge over Cozine Creek. In mid- to late-20th century, a long footbridge stretched a couple hundred yards from the base of the stairs to the south side of the creek. Note that some of the lamp posts along the trail are on concrete pedestals six feet tall – indicators of when old bridge was far longer, and level with the base of the lamps. That bridge is long-gone, replaced by the far shorter one, stable enough but itself showing its age.

As you descend the trail, you may see evidence of plantings

of native species; the meadow and riparian area around the creek has long served as an outdoor classroom of the Linfield Environmental Studies program.

The trail’s showcase moment is the first Friday of every May when the university and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (this is originally the land of the Kalapuya people) hold the Camas Festival, honoring the sacred camas root and flower.

All other times of the year, the trail through the ravine is just as beautiful but the trail can get a little rough and even hard to find. But it’s worth it for the cathedral-like bower of tall oak, maple, spruce and fir. Near the south bank, the trail veers east and leads up to the rear of Cozine Hall, the campus maintenance building.

One can start the hike at the Cozine Hall end, but keep in mind that streets with green signs on and around campus are public but those with blue are the university’s -- and subject to parking restrictions and penalties.

Retrace your steps through the ravine, or continue on to College and Cows streets and enjoy a walk on the gorgeous Linfield campus.

There’s a mysterious aspect to the Cozine trail best appreciated at night; you can see the illumination through the trees, when driving by on Baker Street. While the trail is well-lit, walking it at night is not advised. However, up close and in daylight, one can see the tall lampposts and,

arrayed among the trees and in small clearings along the trail, it brings to mind C.S. Lewis. One can envision Narnia of “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe” when Lucy Pevensie encounters the friendly faun, Mr. Tumnus, next to a single lamppost in the forest clearing.

Such fancy aside, Cozine trail is an appealing, if somewhat rough-but-ready forest ramble suitable for those able to climb stairs and perhaps do some minor bushwacking.

### LINFIELD WELLNESS TRAIL, AND ART WALK

On Linfield campus you’ll find the Wellness Trail, a multi-faceted and traffic-free 1.1-mile trail on the south side of campus.

One can park in the small lot at the trailhead just off the university’s Booth Bend Road entrance, or in the lots adjacent to either Nicholson Library or Ford Hall and pick up the trail there. Moving clockwise from the trailhead, the southern third of the trail is tree-covered, and has a bench inexplicably located about 100 yards from the start – oddly, it is the only bench on the trail. Tree coverage continues on the west side, before the trail goes into the open along Keck Drive past Albertsons and around the bend, back to campus.

Then you take a right on Library Drive, taking time to admire the row of 25 or so geometric wooden



BELOW: Linfield University Observatory

PHOTOS BY KIRBY-NEUMANN-REA



LEFT: Linfield University Cozine Creek trail, RIGHT: Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum trails

sculptures created by students over the past 10 years. All have a stories or ideas to present, and are worth spending some time.

To the left is the James Miller Art Center, which is surrounded by more sculptures, and inside is the Linfield Gallery, open most weeks Monday through Saturday, always worth a visit. Continuing along the wellness trail, the path curves around the back of the Linfield maintenance yard, the final quarter mile looping back to the trailhead.

#### JOE DANCER PARK

Close by but with a secluded feel, Joe Dancer Park is east of town with vehicle entrances on Three Mile Lane or Riverside Drive. Ample parking on the west and south sides of the park give the walker plenty of options. Recommended is the west lot, overlooking the expansive soccer and softball complex.

It's worth noting that bends in the Yamhill River hug Joe Dancer Park, but

getting to the river is difficult. Until 2020 it was possible to do so at Kiwanis Park, which abuts Joe Dancer at the southwest entrance, off Three Mile Lane. But the path and former boat launch have been fenced off for years. Near the Rotary Wetland Park in Joe Dancer there is a place with – be advised – a steep bank. Note that abutting the park are No Trespassing signs indicating land owned by McMinnville Water & Light. Though it is a public agency, MW&L areas are off-limits.

The access point mentioned above is unofficial but on park land. As one fisherman said when asked about getting up and down the bank, “How are your knees?”

(Glimpses of the Yamhill River can be had, via a few side trails, but the banks are steep if not precipitous.)

There appears to be no other place anywhere in McMinnville where one can physically reach the river.

But the one-mile Joe Dancer perimeter trail provides plenty of charm:

Moving clockwise from the west lot, the trail first passes

a grove known as Rotary Wetlands Park, the wide path curving around to the east side of the park. The wetlands park was created about 20 years ago and bears a weathered sign indicating “future projects” such as signage, benches and elevated walkways, but those have yet to be done.

Those east and southern edges of Joe Dancer are ringed by wide sections of the path that remain under a kind of maple tunnel for hundreds of yards, with views out to the complex of ballfields. It's a public path but secluded, and the embrace of the riverside forest continues on the south side of the park. Once past the Gary Ottely Skatepark, the trail peels left to Kiwanis Park. Stay right to get back to the car, across the Joe Dancer lawns, and be sure to take in the 2022 “Hummingbirds” student mural on a free-standing wall, not far from the road.

#### EVERGREEN OAKS AND VINES

Evergreen Air & Space Museum is best known for the Spruce Goose airplane and

other flying machines, but the grounds are also a great place for walking. Consider it two trails that can be done separately or combined. Both loops are flat and on pavement (and all-abilities accessible) and are connected by either pavement or grass.

The first is next to the main parking lot, just beyond the imposing Boy Scouts of America arch. The short trail follows a figure-8 under a grove of majestic oak and maple, and is surrounded by open fields and farmland.

The second is longer and more of a meander: near the west end of the campus, start at the chapel and the newly-built Evergreen event space. The trail curves through woods and around and through vineyards. Unique log benches are located in the forested section.

Two caveats: dogs are allowed – on leashes – and note that the west trail is adjacent to a construction zone, a new hotel between the museum and Wings & Waves. ■

## EXPLORE

### A Long Journey

The 90-ton Erratic Rock, located off Highway 18 between McMinnville and Sheridan, floated over 500 miles in an iceberg 12,000 to 17,000 year ago. Visitors at Erratic Rock can look out across the vast landscape and imagine the huge amount of water that filled the Willamette Valley during the Ice Age Floods.

### On the Lookout

As of 2019, Oregon ranks No. 6 for the most bigfoot sightings in the U.S. Yamhill County has officially had one reported sighting; while Clackamas County has the most with 27 sightings.

### Random Oregon Facts

- Oregon boasts the only Scenic Bikeway program in the nation. Discover its 17 routes across the state.
- Oregon residents own one-fourth of the country's total llama population.
- With more than 80 abandoned towns listed on the national register, Oregon holds the nation's top spot as the ghost town capital.
- Oregon is the only state with an official state nut: the hazelnut.

### Now You Know

Despite its nickname, the Spruce Goose, the Hughes Hercules H-4 flying boat was actually built mostly of birch.

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October 2-4 & 9-11, 2026 | Fri, Sat, & Sun

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OF YAMHILL COUNTY



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## ART HARVEST TOUR ACADEMY

2025-2026 MENTORSHIP PROGRAM  
14 Students - 5 Mentor Instructors

A professional art education program where high school students create work with Tour artists. Mentor instructors open their studios - demonstrating techniques about art tools, design, marketing and exhibits. Students receive an art supply stipend. *This Mentor Program reflects the AHST's commitment of supporting community art education.*

THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTORS WHO HAVE MADE THIS YEAR'S TOUR POSSIBLE:



# EXPLORE



PHOTOS BY KIRBY-NEUMANN-REA

## Stands that deliver

Roadside spots for produce, flowers, honey, and a lot more

by YVVG Staff

Looking for fresh produce this spring or summer? And just about any time of year?

The McMinnville Farmer's Market at First and Cows on Thursdays May to October is your best bet, not just for tomatoes, cherries or garlic, but many other locally-sourced foods. Same said for the year-round Saturday Farmers Market held at McMinnville Grange, just

south of town Old Sheridan Road, and Chehalem Flats (April-November) on North Valley Highway west of Newberg.

But say it's another day of the week, or another season, and you're looking for local produce or hand-made items?

Farm stands indeed stand ready, throughout Yamhill County. In most cases these locations carry a variety of produce and goods.

Here are highlighted suggestions -- a smorgasbord

sampler of the ample delights of Yamhill County agriculture and hospitality:

- Blackberries and peaches for a mid-summer smoothie? Draper Farms, Southeast Baker Creek and Hill roads
- Asian pears for your Labor Day picnic salad? Sunflower Farm, downtown Yamhill:
- Fresh eggs and bread for breakfast in your vacation cottage? Source Farms, Highway 47 just south of Yamhill;
- Strawberries for that

**ABOVE:** Hill Farm Stand  
**BELOW:** Oldsville Road Stand  
**RIGHT:** Gonzo, A to Z Flower Farm, Draper Farms, Sunflower Farm



birthday potluck? Guerrero's on Southeast Adams in McMinnville and Highway 99W near Amity;

- Lavender as a housesitter thank you? Oldsville Road, six miles west of McMinnville (adjacent to Erratic Rock State Park – get in a short hike at the same time);
- Fall fruits and winter evergreens? Hill Farm Stand, Highway 99 halfway between McMinnville and Lafayette;
- Honey for a local gift to take home? Find a variety at the venerable stand on Highway 99W between Lafayette and Dundee;
- Plant start for a housewarming party? Greatfull Gardens on Eola Hills Road near Amity;
- Winter squash for that Thanksgiving dinner? CJD Nursery between Yamhill and Gaston;
- Fresh pie for the graduation party? Blue Raeven farm

stand, just south of Amity;

- Flowers for that wedding reception picnic? A to Z Flower Farm, Southwest Hidden Hills Road, west of McMinnville;
- Zucchini or peppers for that charcuterie to pair with that nice bottle of wine? Look for the seasonal stand on Highway 221 north of Hopewell.
- Looking for farm tours and activities, rural places to stay and other attractions? Visit [willamettevalley.org/farm-loop-guide](http://willamettevalley.org/farm-loop-guide), As Matt Wastradowski writes on the Yamhill Food Loop website, "The northern Willamette Valley is known the world over for its award-winning wines. But that's not all the northern Willamette valley has to offer. Indeed, set amongst the rolling hillsides and rows of wine grapes, you'll find countless family farms, eateries, and markets ..." ■



PHOTOS BY KIRBY-NEUMANN-REA

**LEFT:** Common Cup, Amity  
**RIGHT, ABOVE:** Galloping Gerty, Willamina  
**RIGHT, BELOW:** The Logging Statue, Willamina

# Town by town

Unique Yamhill County experiences

**AMITY**

Send a postcard to The Common Cup in Amity, then go and have a coffee or a waffle and see the wall where yours' and others' are displayed. (Send one to P.O. Box 474, Amity, OR 97101.) Down the street, Earth and Wood gallery is a trove of locally-made art ranging from wood and metal to photography and jewelry.

**CARLTON**

Check out the intimate Ladd Park downtown, then down the block for a couple touches of Great Britain: a classic red

call box on the corner and then east by one bloke – er, block -- for the Monty Python signage in front of the corner home, at Yamhill and Grant streets. From Another Udder ice cream, inside Park + Main Parlor Market, is the only place around to get boozy ice cream (regular, handmade flavors, too.)

**DAYTON**

Take a walk from downtown Dayton, six blocks across the Yamhill River footbridge. Back at the classic town square, try one of the restaurants grouped around Courthouse

Park. (There's music there every Friday night in July and August.) Newly-renovated Inn at Dayton is centerpiece to the historic town's rejuvenation.

**LAFAYETTE**

The busy 99W thoroughfare features a number of antique stores. A new cider house, pizza parlor and marijuana shop, and rejuvenated small markets, add to the vibrance of the town with a proud history as the original county seat. Look for historical info at the small park, with gazebo, next to the U.S. Post Office smack on Highway 99.

**MCMINNVILLE**

Two unique Mac experiences: first, outside of town is Galen McBee Airport Park, with a walk-through mushroom and other unusual sculptures along two loops of flat trails in a kind of forest oasis. (Open all year, but it does get muddy.) Second, in the spring and summer, along busy Alpine Avenue, anyone may sample strawberries, tomatoes, herbs, peppers and other delights growing in community planters along the way. Help yourself.

**NEWBERG**

First Street gets all the attention, as 99W thoroughfare with its stretch of shops, restaurants and watering holes, but have a look a block north on East Hancock for coffee, wine and collectibles options, as well as the busy library/cultural center complex. Memorial Park three blocks south of First Street is a terrific park with plenty of history.



**SHERIDAN**

No town in Yamhill County does a better job of connecting to its riverfront than Sheridan. (Willamina has a place or two overlooking the Yamhill and Newberg's Rogers Landing on the Willamette is not far from downtown, but really Sheridan has the only town center with anything like a river view.) Take it in along Highway 18 on the wide Veterans Memorial promenade with a flag plaza, benches and river views – the sidewalks and crosswalks were updated in February and March 2026.

**WILLAMINA**

Two ideas: take in live music or comedy night at the intimate downtown gathering space Swan Hall or its neighbor, Odd Fellows Pizza, and find a unique treasure at the combination gift store/

collectibles shop West Valley Mercantile. A block away, have a look at the Galloping Goose train car display and the adjacent pocket park with its striking metal sculpture, "Rusty the Logger". (A caution: the three-roads intersection is busy so cross carefully.)

**YAMHILL**

The downtown and nearby Ribsy's Dog Park feature the world's only Beverly Cleary walking tour, a tribute to the town's favorite-daughter, author of "Ramona and Beezus". Start on the main drag, Maple Street (aka Highway 47) at West First for an informative historic kiosk. Have a look inside the downtown anchor, T & E General Store, with plenty of snacks, beverages, and to-go foods, along with high shelves stuffed with (for sale) antiques and memorabilia. ■

## EXPLORE DIRECTORY



### ARTS ALLIANCE OF YAMHILL COUNTY (AAYC)

aaycor.org  
info@aaycor.org

The Arts Alliance of Yamhill County is an all volunteer, membership based organization that supports local arts and culture through arts events, student mentorship, community partnerships, and sponsorship of creative programs throughout Yamhill County.



### ART HARVEST STUDIO TOUR

artharveststudiotour.org

Welcome to the 32nd year of the Art Harvest Studio Tour. Each year, nearly 50 talented artists open their studios to more than 1000 visitors from throughout Oregon during the first two weekends in October. Attendees meet the artists in their working environments while supporting their livelihood through the purchase of the artwork. Visitors gain appreciation of artists' unique creative processes as they tour the studios. The tour generates significant ancillary business activity because visitors stay, shop, and dine throughout the county over the six day event. The success of the Art Harvest Studio Tour is made possible through corporate and private contributions, and the sale of entry buttons.

**CHEHALEM PARKS & REC**  
503-537-2909  
cprdnewberg.org

**CITY OF WILLAMINA**  
503-876-2242  
willaminaoregon.gov

**CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE**  
Grand Ronde  
grandronde.org



### CRUISING MCMINNVILLE™

Downtown Third Street  
McMinnville  
CruisingMcMinnville.com

Cruising McMinnville™ is a team of volunteers working in partnership with the City of McMinnville and other local organizations to bring a safe & fun event to downtown McMinnville, Oregon that includes a car show and cruise on the 4th Saturday in August each year. Cruising McMinnville™ is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that is staffed entirely by volunteers with the goal of giving back to our community. We thank you in advance for being a part of Cruising McMinnville. Contact us if you are interested in participating, volunteering, or sponsoring this event.

**GRANARY DISTRICT**  
McMinnville  
Between 5th and 8th at Alpine

**MCMINNVILLE ART FESTIVAL BY ARTWORKS**  
McMinnville  
July 18 and 19, 2026



### THE ERIN HANSON GALLERY

1805 N.E. Colvin Ct., McMinnville  
503-334-3670  
erinhanson.com

The Erin Hanson Gallery exclusively features the art of Erin Hanson, creator of Open Impressionism. Visitors can visit Erin's studio, view her original oil paintings, and tour her 18,000 square foot, state-of-the-art art reproduction facility. This is a truly unique art experience in the heart of beautiful Oregon wine country.

**WINGS & A PRAYER ALPACAS**  
18100 S. Hwy 99W  
Amity  
503-263-6944  
wingsandaprayeralpacas.com

**MCMINNVILLE ART FESTIVAL** by ArtWorks

Art by Phil Juttelstad

**FREE ADMISSION**  
**JULY 18 & 19, 2026**  
On 3rd Street in  
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**Currents Gallery**

532 NE 3rd St, McMinnville  
503-435-1316  
currentsgallery.com

11

**Artemis Fox Studio & Gallery**

448 NE 3rd St, McMinnville  
503-310-5480  
shopartemisfox.com

12

**McMinnville Art Alley**

The alley between NE Davis / Evans & 3rd / 4th  
mcminnvilleartalley.com

10

**First Presbyterian Church Narthex Gallery**

390 NE 2nd St, McMinnville  
503-472-6256  
fpc-mac.org/narthex-gallery

14

**Mason-Rivera Sculpture Garden & Art Gallery**

20901 SW Caleb Payne Rd, McMinnville | 503-437-3652  
masonriverasculpture.com

19

**McMinnville Senior Center Wortman Park Art Gallery**

2250 NE McDaniel Ln, McMinnville  
503-435-0407  
mcminnvilleoregon.gov/senior-center/page/wortman-park-art-gallery-0

7

**Linfield Art Gallery at Miller Fine Arts Center**

900 SE Baker St, McMinnville  
linfield.edu/art/gallery.html

16

**The Erin Hanson Gallery**

1805 NE Colvin Ct, McMinnville  
503-334-3670  
erinhanson.com

9

**Acorn to Oak/RJ Studios**

546 NE 3rd St, McMinnville  
acorntoakwine.com

13

**Inner Oasis Gifts**

448 NE 3rd St, Suite B, McMinnville  
inneroasis-mindbodyspirit.com

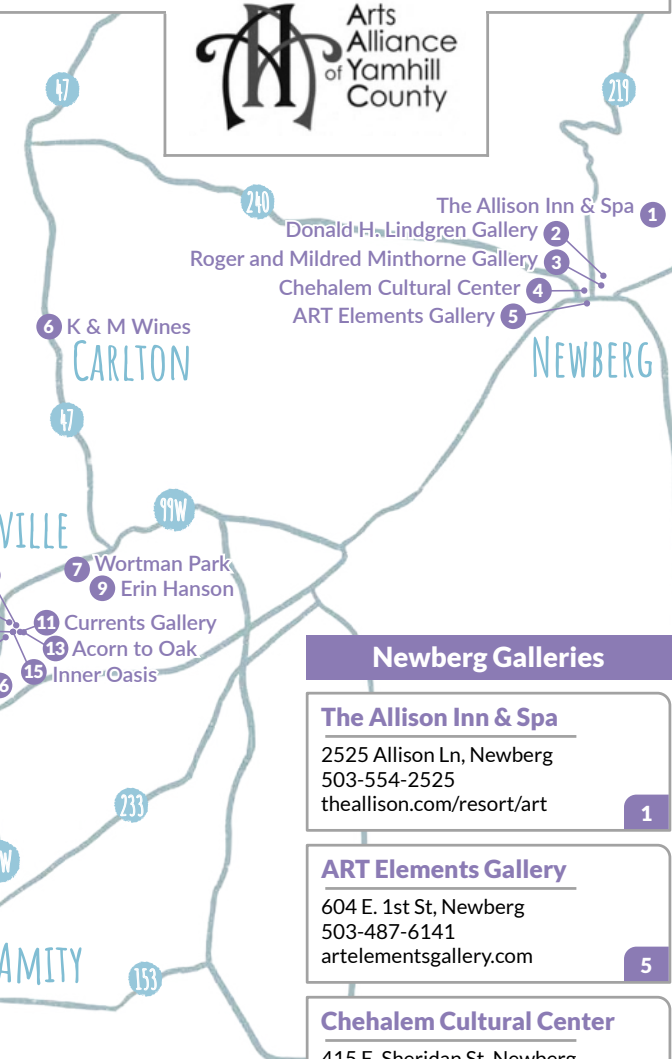
15

**NW Food & Gifts**

445 NE 3rd St, McMinnville  
nwfoodandgifts.com

8

**Yamhill County Art Galleries and Shops**



**Newberg Galleries**

**The Allison Inn & Spa**

2525 Allison Ln, Newberg  
503-554-2525  
theallison.com/resort/art

1

**ART Elements Gallery**

604 E. 1st St, Newberg  
503-487-6141  
artelementsgallery.com

5

**Chehalem Cultural Center**

415 E. Sheridan St, Newberg  
503-487-6883  
chehalemculturalcenter.org

4

**Amity Galleries**

**Earth & Wood Studio**

412 South Trade St, Amity  
503-583-0275  
earthandwoodstudio.com

17

**Carlton Galleries**

**K & M Alchemy Vineyards and Shop**

128 W Main St, Carlton  
503-852-3188  
kandmwines.com

6

**Grand Ronde Galleries**

**Chachalu Tribal Museum and Cultural Center**

8720 Grand Ronde Rd, Grand Ronde  
chachalu.org

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**George Fox University Roger and Mildred Minthorne Gallery**

412 N. Meridian St, Newberg  
503-538-8383

3

**George Fox University Donald H. Lindgren Gallery**

1009 E. North St, Newberg  
503-538-8383  
georgefox.edu/academics/undergrad/departments/visual-art/galleries

2

**Willamina Galleries**

**Willamina Merchants**

110 NE Main St, Willamina  
facebook.com/willaminamerch

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**AAYC Events 2026**

**McMinnville Art Festival**

Saturday, July 18 and Sunday, July 19, 2026  
3rd Street, McMinnville  
aaycor.org/mac-arts-festival

**Art Harvest Studio Tours**

October 2, 3, 4 & 9, 10, 11, 2026  
Friday, Saturday, & Sunday | 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
artharveststudiotour.org

**Make Music McMinnville**

Sunday, July 21, 2026  
3rd Street, McMinnville  
aaycor.org/make-music-mcminnville

Check out our AAYC Hub Arts and Cultural Calendar for more current events: [AAYCor.org/calendar](http://AAYCor.org/calendar)



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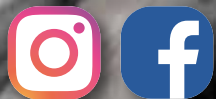
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## McMinnville's timeless vibe

(will still be here the next time you visit)

by YVVG Staff

An online travel site in 2025 tagged downtown McMinnville as “like a town that time forgot”.

They meant it as a positive. Sure, iconic Third Street has a comfortable vibe. Call it timeless. The tree-lined blend of historic buildings and modern amenities continues to draw visitors from all over.

Moods and appeals vary from corner to corner: But stuck in time it is not. In McMinnville, Timeless does not mean time standing still. Vintage stores chock full of cool items from are just down the block from a wine bar with digital projections depicting the passage of time on a scenic vineyard.

An iconic tavern with a friendly '50s feel is just a few steps away from an award-winning elegant boutique hotel.

A short walk from a mercantile laden with chic home goods is a grocery and deli featuring organic produce and food products, a curated meat and seafood counter and busy deli.

While savored traditions endure, new goods and services find foothold in a downtown that holds onto

what works and tries things that are new. Suppose you are reading this as you prepare to leave McMinnville: know that upon return, there will be more to discover but most of what you liked will remain.

Projects are in progress in McMinnville that you might see, fully or in part, later in 2026 or into 2027:

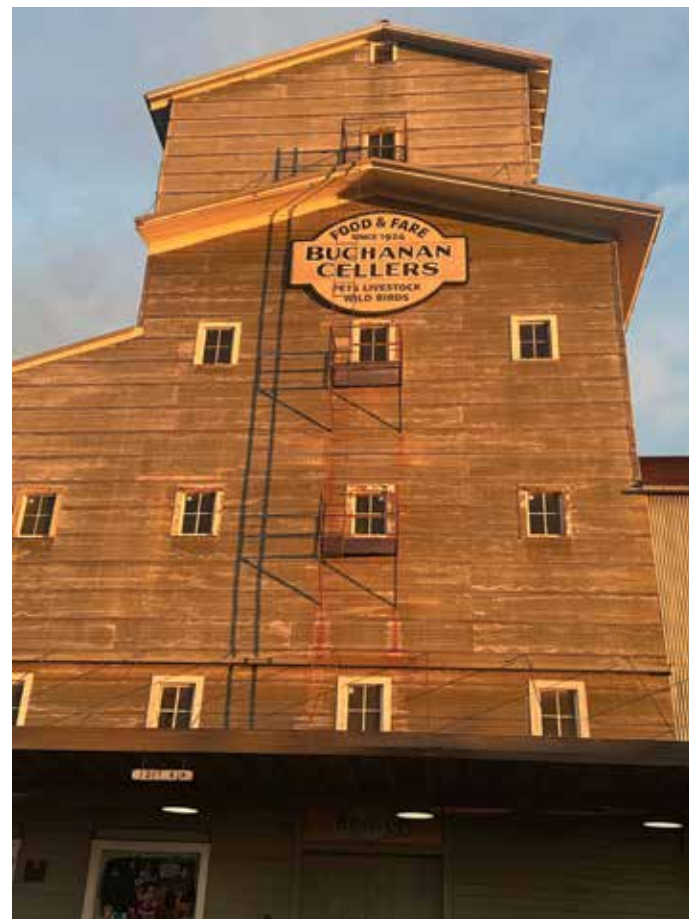
In hiatus is work on one of downtown's most prominent storefronts: the old Third Street pizza was gutted by fire in 2023. The interior was laboriously rehabbed in 2024 and early renovations were in progress -- before the lease was ended by the business's former owners, who decided to retire. New owners are being sought, but there is little doubt that this piece of prime downtown real estate will make its return, in some commercial form.

Carriage House cafe is underway on Fourth near Evans. Under the same ownership as Two Dogs Taphouse across the street, this is a unique historic and architectural specimen, when considered with the recently-renovated Celestial Hill winery tasting room adjoining to the south on Third. Originally one building, a carriage house, the old

horse-drawn wagon parking numbers are still visible inside on the walls.

Carriage House may be a year or so away, so pay a visit to Celestial Hill and have a look at a historic feature unique in McMinnville. While the businesses are separate, with no connecting door, the historic numbers (1-20 at Celestial, 21-45 in Carriage House) provide a unique link

**BELOW:** McMinnville's iconic Buchanan Cellers feed store  
**RIGHT:** Recently-renovated Celestial Hill winery tasting room, before (2024)



PHOTOS BY KIRBY-NEUMANN-REA

between the two sides. (You can envision plenty of 40th-birthday parties at the table directly under that number.)

Visitors to McMinnville naturally wonder about the status of the building that might well be the downtown centerpiece: the historic Yamhill Hotel/Mack Theater building is under the care of investors who are in the midst of the involved challenge of planning its restoration. The iconic building was first home to the hotel; the theater was added later. No word yet on when work will start. No films have been shown since 1996,

it's not open to the public, but the theater neon lights up every night and the marquee is a vital part of downtown life, updated regularly to promote events, festivals and holidays.

New hotels are planned, including downtown just off Second Street next to Blue Moon Lounge (construction nearly complete); Piquette Hotel on Alpine Avenue (which featured a “photo pop-up park” in the vacant lot last fall; and, scheduled for opening in 2027, the new Marriott hotel at the Evergreen Space & Aviation Museum.

Additionally, scheduled for opening in 2026 is the Hoffs Homestead complex on First near Irvine Street: three new structures on the grounds of an existing home and updated outbuilding, all planned as

vacation housing and event space.

A block away on First, the southeast side of downtown is expected to see a new coffee house in 2026 as Tommy's Bikes expands its rental and repair operation: a sign for “Century Cafe” has been on the window in the Boho Building since mid-2025, and work was well along early 2026.

(A notable closure in downtown McMinnville was The Bindery event space, on Fourth at Ford Street. Home to the popular Holiday Marketplace the last four years.)

On Fifth Street just off downtown, at Buchanan Cellers feed store, one of McMinnville's most iconic (and tallest) structures, owners have long-term plans



to remodel and restore the main floor as well as the storage-only upper floors. Whether you need pet food or not, the ground floor showroom is worth a look; as a business it has modern functions but retains a mid-20th century look and feel.

Look for more changes, too, south of McMinnville, at The Preserve event space and The Nines Golf Course (formerly The Bayou). The complex reopened in 2024 after

extensive remodeling by new owners, with more changes to come.

On the south edge of downtown on Southwest Adams, the former Mac Plaza has been taken on by Guerrero Farms, with an indoor cafe and fruit stand, along with the existing food cart pod.

North of downtown in the old Sears building on Northeast Baker Street, at 15th, is the new El Torito Market, which reopened in December 2025. ■

## Sidewalk decals reflect changes to come

Last summer, sections of Third Street curbs and sidewalks were lined last summer with unusual strips of three-inch white tape on the curbs and corners, labeled as “tree”, “bench”, “planter” or “curb.”

Most have been removed but you might see a few remaining decals. These were not street art, but indicators of civic progress.

Nearby were signs explaining that the tape “stencils” show the locations and dimensions for parking, as well as the other features -- all changes envisioned for sometime between 2027-29. What the signage read was, “With clearly

delineated sidewalks, parking areas, and travel lanes, the new Third Street will function as a conventional street and, when needed, a community space serving residents and customer as it does today.”

These were visual outlines of preliminary plans for what will be the extensive redevelopment of Third Street.

So, the next time you visit McMinnville is in five years: you might not recognize the street. Many, if not most, of the overarching trees are likely to be removed in the process of remaking Third. Or you might return while the project is in full swing. The work will be

extensive, perhaps even intrusive, but be assured, shops will remain open.

In addition to surface improvements, new subterranean utilities and drainage will be installed, along with a completely rebuilt street, gutters and sidewalks. The changes will be major and so will the disruptions, at times, to vehicle and pedestrian traffic, and how people get in and out of business doors.

But with funding and planning tiers both in progress, actual in-ground (and under) work on Third Street Redevelopment won't happen until at least 2028 or 2029.

# NEWBERG



## Discover the Bounty of Newberg

by YVVG Staff

The Newberg town motto “A Great Place to Grow” fits this welcoming place, with vibrant options for wine tasting, dining, and historic tours and cultural endeavors. In the heart of the lively downtown a year-old mural at

First and Washington conveys that greeting with images of wildlife, waterways, vineyards and hot air balloons.

Subtly, the mural also features the town’s signature pink flower, the Camellia, celebrated with a festival each April.

Visitors can find true variety

of offerings and attractions in this area where the Willamette and Chehalem rivers meet. Rogers Landing Park just outside of town is perhaps the best-used river access point in Yamhill County. It offers a dock and launch and is the base for the annual Memorial Day Weekend boat races.

The rolling Chehalem Hills and those stretching south to the companion town of Dundee are home to multiple wineries providing high quality varietals, and driving those roads is a visual delight even if you’re not in search of wine.

Downtown offers a variety of pocket parks along First Street, such as Frances Square, with its Fountain For Youth, and the appealing Memorial Park just three blocks east. A geometric climbing feature

**LEFT AND BELOW:** New mural at First and Washington  
**RIGHT, CLOCKWISE:** Frances Square, Memorial Park, Cameo mezzanine museum

dominates the playground, a space dedicated to children, courtesy of Rotary, Kiwanis and Chehalem Parks and Recreation District.

Near the park’s community house and group picnic shelter is a wooden sculpture celebrating the town’s pioneer roots, and the sense of community. Called “Circle of Joy,” it was created by Stonebender Creations from a redwood that once stood in the park. “Its spirit lives on in a tribute to life, memory and community,” reads the placard.

The city is also home to George Fox University, one of the Northwest’s premier Christian colleges, located within a few blocks of downtown, as well as a handful of art galleries and boutiques.

First Friday ARTWalk remains a prime opportunity to engage with local artists and visit local businesses.

Newberg is known for its many wine tasting rooms, including Et Fille, Domaine Lumineux, Bravuro, Stoller



PHOTOS BY KIRBY-NEUMANN-REA



and Artisanal Cellars.

Downtown is both framed and bisected by the busy Highway 99W couplet – First Street heading east and Hancock Street heading west. Just across Hancock is Chehalem Cultural Center, which features art works by local and student artists. The public library is right next door.

The center hosts programs for both children and adults, and is a hub for annual events such as Old Fashioned Days, the Camellia Festival -- celebrating Asian culture -- and the Oregon Truffle Festival Market, as well as Tunes on Tuesday, a summer music series. Add to that the Newgrass musical festival, hosted by Wolves & People Farmhouse Brewery, which started in 2025 and expanded in March 2026 with more bands and activities, many of them free.

The downtown pub scene is a vibrant one in Newberg, with Social Goods Beer and Pizza, Barley & Vine Tavern and Old Town Bar & Grill providing

extensive tap lists.

Summer 2026 awaits reopening of The Pub, a large former pool hall (name to be announced). Wolves & People, meanwhile, is planning to open a second location, at First and Meridian Streets, in late 2026 or early 2027. Wolves & People’s original location is located a few miles northeast of town, via Springbrook Road; its former access directly off Highway 99W is now closed. Seasonal openings are anticipated (follow Springbrook north and turn at The Allison Inn & Spa, then Benjamin Road to its end.)

Fine dining can be found at Rosmarino Osteria Italiana downtown and Jory at The Allison, on the east edge of town. Establishments new to Newberg this year are Kopitos Cocina and Harvest Moon Sangria Bar. Arriving in 2025 on First Street is Bronco Kelly’s, a Western-themed restaurant and bar that features regular live music.

Newberg is distinct in Yamhill County in having two

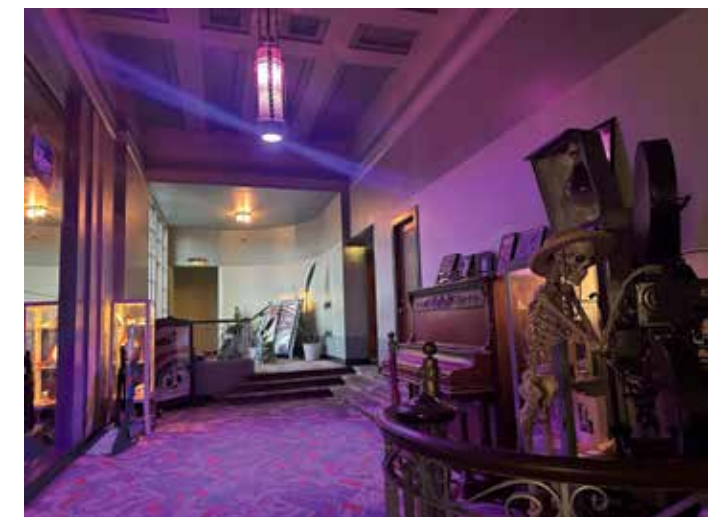
movie venues: the Highway

99 drive-in on the east end of town, and one of only three in Oregon, and the vintage Cameo downtown -- don’t miss the cool movie memorabilia on the second floor, up the classic curving staircase. Instead of ads before the feature, expect to watch 1950s color film footage of Newberg history.

Another nice Newberg pairing is two locally-owned ice cream outlets: Jem 100 Ice Cream Saloon on North Main and Cream Northwest,

co-located with Chapters bookstore at First and College streets.

Taste Newberg, the official online visitors guide for Newberg, provides an in-depth walk-through of all of the potential adventures for arriving visitors. The organization’s website highlights Newberg’s ascension as an accessible destination in wine country, with experiences for all travelers. ■



# DUNDEE



PHOTOS BY KIRBY-NEUMANN-REA

LEFT: Red Hills Market  
RIGHT: Tipsu Palach Park



## Chasing the Red Hills

by YVVG Staff

Dundee's Third Thursday events began as the vision of a local group of businesses and citizens, conceived to showcase regional art, and to activate Dundee's newly walkable downtown and new city park. It's just part of Dundee's transformation into a prime tourist destination featuring a charming hotel, luxury retreats, bed and breakfasts and marketplace lofts.

Surrounded by rolling hillsides of vineyards and celebrated wineries, Dundee has diverse fine and casual dining and wine-tasting shops in and around town. "Discover Dundee" walk-around are free of charge, and attendees can participate in a digital "passport" to win prizes. Visit [traveldundeeoregon.com](http://traveldundeeoregon.com) for a downloadable map, and look for information on overnight accommodations. Also sign up for a Third Thursday Passport,

with holders eligible for prizes.. Dundee created a 360-acre Riverside District located southeast between the city and Willamette River. Plans will accommodate hundreds of new homes, neighborhood parks and job center, with development proceeding under a Master Plan with new zoning and opening of an elementary school in anticipation of growth. In 2022, the city began working on a plan for

protecting riparian habitats for waterways in the city. Keeping stream and river water shaded helps to keep the water cooler and more habitable for fish and other aquatic animals. The city continues to work on developing its plans to restore public access to the Willamette Riverfront, and to add connectors between existing trails in the city, and is developing an ordinance to protect existing riparian areas and wetlands, and to restore damaged ones.

There's a new Sunday market in Dundee's Tipsu Palach Park, which was named to honor the city's relationship with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde. Tipsu Palach, meaning "plant gift," is from the Chinuk Wawa trade language. The park features seating and gathering areas, an amphitheater, a cutting and pollinator garden and native plantings.

The city also works with Chehalem Parks and Recreation District on multi-use Dundee-Billick Park.

Dundee is home to some of the Valley's most renowned wineries along Dundee's main street, including Argyle, Dobbles, Methven, Hyland, Purple Hands, NW Wine Company, Day Wines and many more. Dundee boasts more than a dozen tasting rooms on its main street and dozens more with adjacent vineyards in the nearby hills. Its foodie scene has long been anchored by Red Hills Market, with wood-fired pizzas and sandwiches and Tina's which features local farm to table fine dining. Wooden Heart was added

to the mix in 2023 with its brick oven kitchen. Briar Rose Creamery, an award-winning artisan cheese company, makes its home in Dundee, along with more wine country dining staples such as Trellis, La Sierra Mexican Grill & Lounge and Jin's Chinese Restaurant. Lodging is another feature: In addition, the Dundee Hotel, with its own assortment of tasting rooms on the ground floor, there are multiple bed and breakfasts located in the immediate area, along with numerous vacation rentals. ■

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Contact Randy or Barbara to schedule your visit and enjoy our little slice of heaven – alpacas, dogs, flowers! See us online at [wingsandaprayeralpacas.com](http://wingsandaprayeralpacas.com). Visit us by appt. at 18100 S. Hwy. 99W, Amity, OR 97101. Randy 503/310-9367. Barbara 503/263-6944.



PHOTOS BY KIRBY-NEUMANN-REA

**LEFT:** Park and post office  
**BELOW:** Lafayette Community Center

Pub which provides a place where everyone feels welcome to gather for great company, food, and drinks.

Notable past residents include suffragette Abigail Scott Duniway, who taught school in Lafayette in the 1850s, and U.S. District Judge Matthew Deady, who practiced law and taught in Lafayette prior to his election to the Legislature in 1850. A historical marker commemorates Duniway in the small park located in the middle of downtown.

Also of interest is Our Lady of Guadalupe Trappist Abbey, located a couple miles north of Lafayette on Abbey Road. The monastery is famous for its lush forested property, walking trails, church services and its income-generating enterprises of book binding and delicious baked goods — don't leave without a famed Trappist Abbey fruitcake. ■

more selection.

For culinary options, Lafayette offers Mexican restaurants including Martha's Tacos and El Toro, whose salsa is a favorite of City Administrator Branden Dross. New to the dining scene in Lafayette is Mandie's Classic Pizzeria. It's billed as a family-friendly hangout where epic pizza, retro arcade fun and good vibes collide. Another newcomer is Dusty's



## Old Soul with a Bright Future

by YVVG Staff

Steeped in pioneer heritage and surrounded by the rolling vineyards of the Willamette Valley, the small town of Lafayette, offers an enchanting blend of history, outdoor discovery and treasure hunting. Founded in 1846 by pioneer Joel Perkins, Lafayette stands as the third oldest settlement in the state. Once a booming trading post during the California Gold Rush, it has quieted into a charming stopover along Highway 99W. Today, visitors will find a surprising wealth of activities concentrated within this tight-knit community.

Lafayette is within a short driving distance to numerous wineries, and bed and breakfasts, and minutes from

McMinnville, Dayton and Newberg-Dundee.

The town's centerpiece is the Lafayette Schoolhouse Antique Mall and adjoining Groovy Mart (in the former gymnasium). Built in 1912, the Lafayette Schoolhouse became its current incarnation in 1988 and has been a Yamhill County attraction since. With upwards of 15,000 square feet of stall space and 110 store spaces, the mall offers antiques as well as contemporary, vintage and repurposed options. Stop by the wine store, vintage sports or music stores or furnish your sanctuary at the Man Cave or She Shed stores. There are also smaller antique outlets along Highway 99 providing even



## Small town hospitality meets world-class wine

by YVVG Staff

The small town of Amity, whose very name means "friendship perfectly embodies the spirit of the Yamhill Valley. Officially incorporated in 1880, this southern Yamhill County gem evolved from a quiet agricultural and mercantile hub into an intimate epicenter of world-class wine production. Today, Amity seamlessly blends its deep-rooted farming heritage with modern hospitality, offering a robust lineup of boutique businesses, tasting rooms, and tranquil attractions that welcome visitors like old friends.

Amity is inextricably linked to the Eola-Amity Hills AVA. The area holds a storied place in Oregon viticulture; commercial grapes were first planted here at Amity Vineyards in 1971. For

travelers looking to explore this world-class terroir, the options are rich and diverse. In 2006, the Eola-Amity Hills District American Viticultural Area was designated, and by 2008 the area supported some 30 wineries with 1,460 acres in vineyards.

Coelho Winery and tasting room and The Bramble/Silas winery tasting rooms are located just blocks apart downtown, and Keller Estate is two miles away, at the end of Rice Lane, and dozens more tasting opportunities are a short drive into the hills.

The community hosts the Amity Daffodil Festival each March. The event features an art show, vendors, plant sales, local wine and restaurant specials and a judged show organized by the Oregon Daffodil Society.

The oak-canopied Amity City Park, blocks off Trade Street,

pop-up venues throughout town and offering looks into artist studios. It has become a much anticipated annual event.

A detailed interpretive sign gives an entertaining description of the town's settlement by Europeans and development as an agricultural and economic hub in the west Willamette Valley.

Throughout the city, there is plenty of good food and spirits

is a welcoming place to recreate, and is home to an annual pancake breakfast and car show held in late July. The community event expanded in 2024 and rebranded as Amity Day, with additional activities in the park and a parade downtown.

In 2025, the Amity Art Collective held its inaugural tour event on the first weekend in May, featuring artists at

to satisfy everyone's taste throughout the year,

A former taphouse on Highway 99 (aka Trade Street within city limits) was transformed in 2022 into Retro Pizza and arcade, where pizza, beer, and a wide range of video games appeal to gamers of all ages.

There are an array of eateries, particularly on Trade Street, including Tacos Burros, El Toro Loco and The Common Cup, notable for its waffle bar and handmade espresso drinks. Common Cup is part of the Trade Street Commons, once home to the Independent order of Odd Fellows, a downtown staple. It features apartments and office space upstairs and multiple businesses on the ground floor.

On the outskirts of town, you'll find much sought-after bakery items at the Blue Raeven Farmstand at the south end on Highway 99W and fudge and truffles of all types at the Briggittine Monastery (take the highly scenic Highway 153 west out of town). ■

**ABOVE LEFT:** Amity Daffodil Festival, **BELOW:** Memorial Arbor



PHOTOS BY KIRBY-NEUMANN-REA



restaurants, with multiple coffee shops, bakeries and specialty shops along the way.

Carlton is always close by, just 10-20 minutes from the other community centers of Yamhill County hospitality. Check schedules for live entertainment, specialty wine dinners and special events nearby, knowing that many of Oregon's premier wine-tasting experiences circle and permeate this small piece of Oregon Wine Country.

In Carlton, you can simply take a walk in Wennerberg Park next to the Yamhill River or Ladd Park downtown. Both parks offer children's play structures and picnic tables, so before heading there pick up breakfast, lunch, a snack or picnic supplies at the Carlton Bakery or Carlton Coffee

Company.

Before you eat, browse in Carlton's shops, such as Rough Cut Soaps & Sundries and Milltown Mercantile with gifts for yourself and for others. Afterward, if you're looking for a workout, try H-Bomb Fitness or, during the summer, the outdoor pool.

Throughout the year, Carlton caters to both visitors and locals with festivals such as Carlton Crush, a harvest festival complete with grape stomping in September. For the family, Carlton Fun Days Festival in late June offers a parade, activities in the park and a fun run; National Night Out in August brings the whole community to Ladd Park for food, music and neighborly activities. ■

## 'Great Little Town' in the Valley

by YVVG Staff

Carlton welcomes visitors with a mix of small-town intimacy and world-class hospitality. The town is surrounded by many of Oregon's finest wineries and tasting rooms that give Carlton its reputation as the "The Wine Capital of Oregon."

Spend a day walking around this "Great Little Town," as its entrance signs proclaim. Visit among 20 wine tasting rooms within four historic district

blocks; stay overnight at one of many cottages, inns, B&Bs and other lodging options available in town and the surrounding hills.

Carlton's many eateries range from quick and casual to fine dining. Cuvée and Hayward are just right for special occasions. Great food and atmospheres in more casual settings range from Park & Main to the Blind Pig, from Horse Radish to Carlton Corners, from Mayla Thai food truck to two Mexican



ABOVE LEFT: Downtown Carlton, BELOW: Ken Wright directional signs



PHOTOS BY KIRBY-NEUMANN-REA

## Big Views, Small Footprint

by YVVG Staff

Yamhill offers the best of small-town life, including services — a bank, a real estate agency, a barbershop, a salon, restaurants, an antique mall and a grocery store — all in a friendly, community-minded setting.

No wonder the town proudly proclaims itself "A Small Taste of Oregon." And you'll find even more places to visit just outside the city limits, such as equestrian venues, and many wine tasting rooms featuring breathtaking views of the

valley are within a few miles of Yamhill's center.

Yamhill startled as a hub between the Willamette Valley and the Coast for those traveling by horse-drawn vehicles. Trains moved people and goods headed north to Portland or south to the rest of the Willamette Valley.

Those roots are displayed throughout town, especially at the Larson House Pizzeria & Eatery, which is located in a building that once held a tavern drawing loggers from the hills west of town.

Today's visitors can

groceries, supplies, soda and snacks at T & E General Store after perusing the ever-changing display of nostalgic finds in the store's back room. More unique items can be found nearby in a collection of vintage and antique dealers.

Just south of town on Highway 47 is The Source Farms (formerly Kookoolan), a small market stocked with locally-raised meat, mead, and other products.

Foodies will find delight in fresh ingredients prepared at The Larson House, with occasional entertainment,

from live music to bingo nights and trivia. The Fireside Tavern features a menu of smokehouse barbecue.

Locals treasure the tradition of Derby Days, a festival started by T & E in the 1950s. Held on the third weekend in July each year, the city's biggest party starts with a huge parade featuring farm and logging equipment, children's groups, fire trucks and more. Later, everyone moves to the oak-shaded Beulah Park for music, bingo, frog jumping and the beloved soap-box derby.

Year-round, Beulah Park remains a popular spot for picnicking. Families enjoy its play equipment and skateboarding area.

From Highway 47, which runs north and south through Yamhill, you may catch a glimpse of what at first looks like a pair of flying saucers.

No need to run — those are the domed gym and STEM buildings on the Yamhill-Carlton High School campus.

Just as striking is a barn covered with quilting squares on the north side of the road; in spring, it sometimes seems to float in a sea of red clover.

Another unique building in Yamhill is the Queen Anne-style house where beloved children's author Beverly Cleary spent her childhood.

In recent years, a festival has been started in her honor, and interpretive signs around town celebrate Cleary's life. ■

# DAYTON



PHOTOS BY KIRBY-NEUMANN-REA

## Meet me at the Square

by YVVG Staff

**D**ayton is the kind of town with an entryway marked by sand and gravel silos with 30-foot bottles of red wine painted on them.

Dayton is the kind of town that has its name stamped in foot-tall letters in the concrete at street corners. It's the kind of place with a wine barrel painted with the word "Marionberries."

In short, there is no place like Dayton although its iconic town center and placid surrounding neighborhoods give it a classic feel.

That marionberry barrel is the only one of its kind in town yet it has a prominent place across the street from the hub and town center, Courthouse Square Park along Ferry Street.

Those silo wine bottles signify the Dayton area's widening role in the wine industry. While the lone wine tasting room in the town center is Seufert Winery on Main Street, Dayton is surrounded by wineries within a five-minute drive including Sokol Blosser on Highway 18, Stoller and Remy on McDougall Road,

and a string of wineries via Breymann Orchards Road: Durant, Domaine Serene, Domaine Drouhin, Winter's Hill, and White Rose Estate, as well as Resonance, DePonte, and Archery Summit. Durant is a producer of both wine and olive oil, and home to a farm shop and the annual Olio Nuovo Festival each November.

A few miles east, two new beverage establishments opened in the past 18 months: Raw Cider on McDougall Road and Odin's Beard meadery along Highway 99W between Dayton and Dundee. On

McDougall near Lafayette is the established Branch Point Distillery.

Dayton's energy feels focused on its scenic square, though it has far more to offer. The square's tall firs provide ample shade and surround the park's large bandstand, fountain, playground, basketball court and ample picnic area. Of historic note is the 19th century blockhouse originally located at Fort Yamhill west of McMinnville.

At the square, that bandstand is the platform for the annual summer Friday Nights concert series, weekly at 6 p.m. in July and August; bring lawn chairs and a picnic and enjoy the music. Vendors sell wares and local organizations offer



information in the park throughout the evening, and typically there's a car show on Fourth Street. Kids play on the Courthouse Square Park playground and shaved ice, elephant ears and tacos are available from vendors surrounding the park, which one vendor called "an Americana town square."

Those "Dayton" sidewalk stamps are at the northeast corner of Ferry and Dayton-Salem Highway, where new energy came in 2025 with the newest edition to downtown, the remodeled historic U.S. Bank building. That project includes the boutique Inn at Dayton hotel upstairs with retail space on the ground floor. Original brick walls surround visitors in the vintage structure, and signs of seismic reinforcing are visible along with the modern touches.

In addition to common areas inside, the inn features a large patio covered by a pergola. Beside it is "the Shed," a building that highlights

Dayton's agricultural roots and the wine and food hub it is becoming. The lower part of the Shed opens to the patio for food service, music or other entertainment. Dining establishments around the square are Juanita's Cafe y Nieveria, Loam Kitchen restaurant and bar, Camino, ByPass Bar and Grill,

and The Bay House. North of the square is another recent project, the re-opened footbridge over the Yamhill River. Accessible to all abilities, the bridge affords a pleasant walking route, five blocks down a gentle slope through a residential neighborhood to where the Yamhill River flows quietly

under the span. On the north bank is the city's Alderman Park, an expansive dog park. Take an immediate turn west to reach The Vintages resort, with its luxury trailers to rent for overnights. Or turn around at the bridge and walk back to downtown for a well-deserved drink or meal.

A few blocks south of the square is the renowned Joel Palmer House restaurant, also within easy walking distance. The city updated its sidewalks on the west side of Ferry Street in recent years. One lunch idea is to follow Ferry Street east to the Pirate's Den, one of those classic across-the-street-from-the-high-school eateries, but open to all.

Also on view is a 2024 mural by Benjamin Cahoon, dedicated to reading, on the south wall of the city hall-library building, a block from the square. It shows an open book with a dandelion releasing "seeds of learning." ■

**LEFT:** The recently re-opened footbridge over the Yamhill River  
**ABOVE:** Mariachi band playing at Dayton's Cinco de Mayo celebration, **BELOW:** "Dayton Friday Nights" fireworks display





Visitors can spend an afternoon browsing unique local shops and restaurants that define the town's independent spirit.

Sheridan Museum of History, 142 S. Bridge St., is one of three West Valley museums, along with Chachalu Museum and Cultural Center on the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, and the Willamina History Museum, both a few miles west.

Sheridan parks range in

size from City Park, where a skate park is also located, and a "pocket park" along the popular walkway (West Main Street). In response to a request from the Oregon Veterans' Motorcycle Association, the city partnered with the group to establish the park.

The granite monument, two granite benches, a flagpole, trees and shrubs form an area about 3,000 square feet in size. While it is designed to remember all veterans, it highlights three servicemen from Sheridan who are listed as missing in action: Robert Altus, Clifford Francis and Grant Teats. The memorial was dedicated in June 2016. ■

LEFT: Veterans Memorial Park  
BELOW: Directional signs by Colt Bowden

## Rugged Beauty Abounds

by YVVG Staff

Sheridan could be considered the gateway to the West Valley, with Willamina located five miles to the west and Grand Ronde a few miles beyond on Highway 18. Sheridan was established in 1866 along the banks of the South Yamhill River, this historic city serves as a vital bridge between the agricultural heartland of Yamhill County and the rugged Oregon Coast Range.

The city offers several recreational opportunities, highlighted by the Sheridan pond, which is regularly stocked with rainbow trout, and where the Hometown Days fishing derby is annually held. The South Yamhill River Water Trail is perfect for kayakers and canoers who frequently use Sheridan as a

launch point to paddle down the scenic, slow-moving river, viewing local wildlife and rolling hillsides from the water.

Hometown Days, which runs in June every year, features food and family events, including a parade through town, a fishing derby, live music, motorcycle games and much more..

To the north of downtown is J Wrigley Vineyards and to the west Art + Science Cider & Wine. Maysara Winery can be found east of Sheridan on Muddy Valley Road.

The McMinnville AVA runs from the county seat, McMinnville, to West Hill toward the Coast Range.

The heart of Sheridan's business community thrives along Bridge Street, where historic architecture meets modern entrepreneurship.



PHOTOS BY KIRBY-NEUMANN-REA

PHOTOS BY KIRBY-NEUMANN-REA



ABOVE LEFT: Chachalu Museum & Cultural Center  
ABOVE RIGHT: Art by Travis Stewart

## Gateway to the Coast Range

by YVVG Staff

Grand Ronde offers a captivating blend of deep Native American heritage, natural beauty and modern entertainment. As the home of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, this community invites travelers to immerse themselves in cultural education, try their luck at world-class gaming, and explore pristine outdoor landscapes.

Visit the Chachalu Museum and Cultural Center on Grand Ronde Road to discover a story of great resilience. It speaks to the people of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, honoring tribal elders who kept traditions and dreams alive during the termination years by the federal government.

The cultural center, at 9615

Grand Ronde Road, just off Highway 18, also celebrates the revitalization that continues to this day. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A short drive away, history enthusiasts can walk the interpretive trails at the Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area. This 19th-century military outpost provides a unique, dual-perspective look at the historical interactions between U.S. soldiers and local tribal communities during the reservation era.

Nature lovers will find exceptional opportunities to disconnect and explore the rugged Coast Range. The tribe maintains the serene Big Buck Campground along Agency Creek, providing a peaceful basecamp for tent and RV campers.

Just west of the museum on

Highway 18, Spirit Mountain Casino and Spirit Mountain Lodge ranks as one of the top tourist attractions in the Northwest. The casino offers a full gaming experience, sports bar, dining choices and an event center that hosts a variety of world-class entertainers.

Grand Ronde also celebrates its West Valley Veterans Memorial, the setting for an annual Memorial Day ceremony. It is located off Grand Ronde Road.

Veterans are also honored during the Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow each July, and the Contest Powwow, each August at Uyxat Powwow Grounds, adjacent to Fort Yamhill State Park, off Highway 22. This colorful event attracts huge crowds.

Whether looking to connect with Pacific Northwest history, win big on the casino floor, or hike through old-growth forests, Grand Ronde packs an abundance of diverse experiences. ■

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# WILLAMINA



## Rooted by the River

by YVVG Staff

Nestled in the lush foothills of the Northern Oregon Coast Range, the small town of Willamina offers an authentic, off-the-beaten-path experience. This historic community—affectionately nicknamed “Timber Town”—is a hidden gem for travelers seeking a mix of outdoor recreation, rich heritage and Pacific Northwest charm. From its serene waters to its deep-rooted logging history, Willamina provides an array of engaging activities for visitors of all interests.

Katie Vinson put the town on the musical map many moons ago with the Wildwood Hotel and the Wildwood Music Fest & Campout. Last year, Vincent relaunched the Wildwood

music festival – tickets are sold out for the event this year, so check early for June 2027 tickets.

Oddfellows Pizza also hosts live music in the warmer months on its patio and the Sundown Concerts & CampOuts at Art + Science, Cider & Wine just east of town are a must for any fan of live music.

Heading into the fall season, the Coastal Hills Art Tour is a beloved annual arts and crafts showcase based in Willamina. The two-day event typically features over 30 artisans, a quilt show, live demonstrations, and museum activities spread across the West Valley Community Campus and downtown venues.

Six miles north of the city into the hills is East Creek

Art, a studio, retreat and community pottery workshop with an onsite anagama kiln. Built into the hillside in 1985, the kiln offers a unique scene of woodfire-brewed alchemy, where heat, ash, and moving air spell imbued patterns and create designs into the ceramics. See [eastcreekart.org](http://eastcreekart.org) for a schedule of firings and other events.

Willamina celebrates history

ABOVE: Willamina Huddleston Memorial Pond, BELOW: Huddleston Pond teeter totter



PHOTOS BY KIRBY-NEUMANN-REA

with its museum downtown at 118 D St., and the nearby Galloping Goose display — a restored train car with an interesting back story told in the signage, at the Y intersection of Northeast and South Main streets. Next to Galloping Goose is a detailed interpretive display relating “Timber Town USA” and the story of how Willamina “made millions of bricks.” Across the way next to a small picnic park is a large metal sculpture by Walt Mendenhall titled “Rusty the Logger” honoring “a bygone era of massive trees and rowdy logging camps.”

The Old Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration is a community staple each Independence Day, featuring a logging show, parade, fireworks presentation and much more.

The Willamina Farmers Market is open Sundays during the summer months, offering local produce and crafts.

Huddleston Pond at Hampton Park is a popular fishing spot, great for family outings, and in 2024 the city celebrated the opening of a bike pump track at Oaken Hills Park. ■

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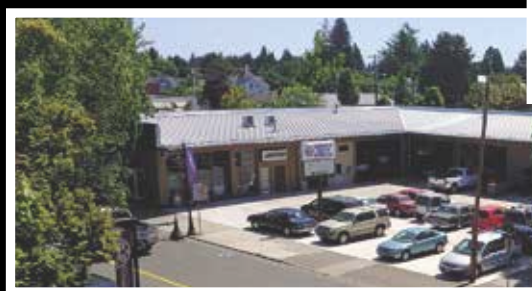
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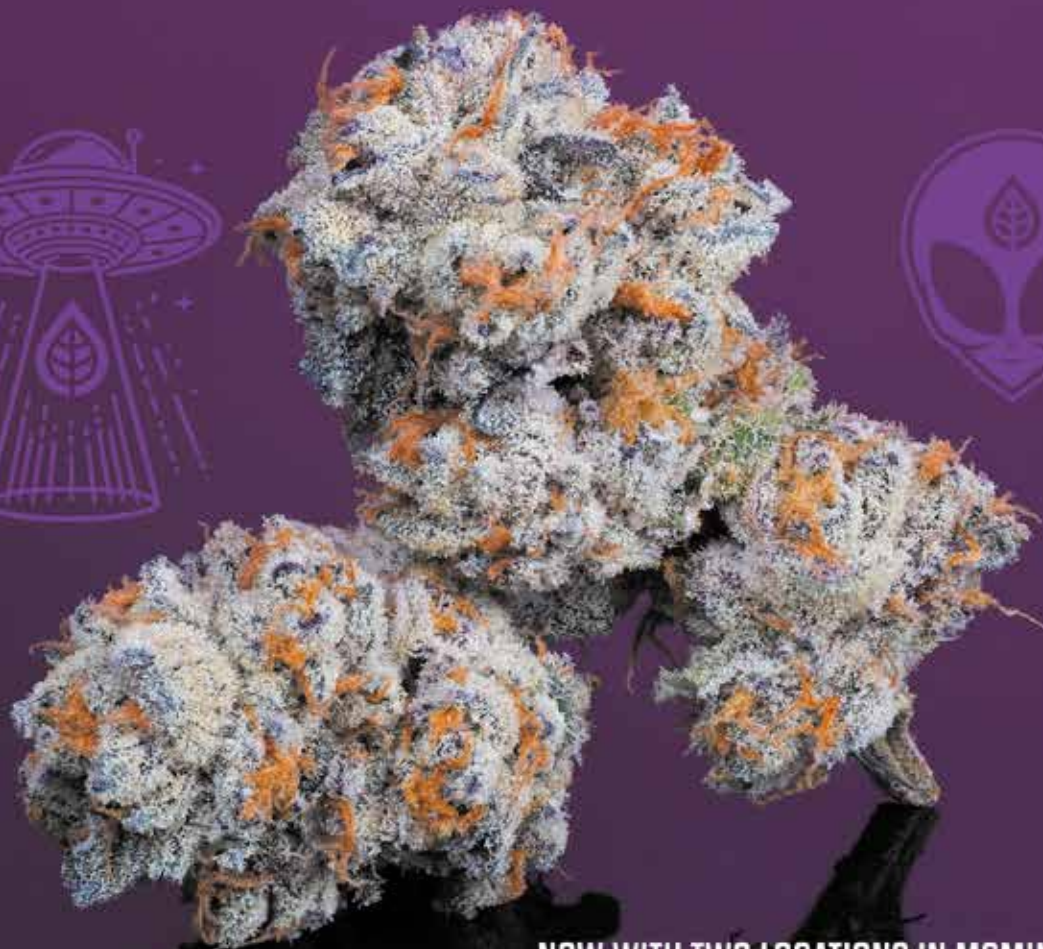
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PHOTOS BY KIRBY-NEUMANN-REA

McMinnville

# Things to see and touch

by YVVG Staff

Yes, those whimsical wayfinders at Third and Adams – hospital, police, parks, airport, etc., -- are accurate.

All part of the welcome to McMinnville, a town that welcomes in many ways. This is a town of engaging pleasures including world-famous wines, Linfield University and its deep list of events and activities, and the world's most famous flown-only-one-time airplane. The Spruce Goose anchors

world-famous Evergreen Space & Aviation Museum. The campus is home to the Wings & Waves waterpark, Evergreen museums, and a host of outdoor aviation displays – as well as fine, all-abilities walking trails. New on campus, expected in summer 2027, is the new Marriott's hotel, adjacent to the complex's events hall built in 2025.

McMinnville has a long list of free-admission treasures. Across Highway 18 from Evergreen is the Galen McBee Airport Park, with wooded

**ABOVE:** Abstract Mural outside Mac Market, **RIGHT:** The bronze Benjamin Franklin statue bench at Third and Davis

trails and unusual stone and mosaic-studded sculptures. On the west side of town, Discovery Meadows Park is an expansive green space with picnic areas, a splash pad and one of two skate parks in town. The other is on the east side of town at the large, tree-lined Joe Dancer Park.

Smaller pleasures include the tiny downtown vineyard, perfect for the town that is the center of Oregon Wine Country. Find it on Galloway Street between Third and Second streets. Few locals know of it, and no one knows how it got there, but if you are visiting in mid-August to early September there are delicious white grapes to be sampled

in those obscure vines, a row of two 20-foot vines that each summer burgeon with tasty fruit. (More free on-the-vine goodies can be found summers along Alpine Avenue, in the planting beds provided by volunteers with the nonprofit Landscapes of Yamhill County. Yes, sampling is encouraged.

Make a tour connecting the tiny vineyard and City Park, seven blocks away at the other end of downtown, by exploring graceful, shady Third Street and its many shops, coffeehouses, restaurants and wine and beer bars.

At City Park are a variety of historical signs describing the history of mills in McMinnville. In the 19th century, grains, nuts and other local farm produce defined McMinnville in ways the wine industry does today. The park signs describe some of that history. Two on the far west slope of the park need to be read as a pair. Start along the path on Star Mill Street and work your way down, or start by the creek and take the path up the hill. Two blocks away, in the park, are city-owned pickleball courts – if you like that sort of thing.

While enjoying Third Street and environs, stop and take a selfie with the Ben Franklin bench at Third and Davis, then do the same with the Abe

Lincoln bench, a short walk to Fifth and Evans in front of McMinnville Community Center, formerly the armory.

In the heart of downtown, the former JC Penney store is now McMinnville Mercantile, home to an eclectic selection of businesses from a wine bar to yarn shop. (If you've never been in, be warned: the loudly-creaking floors are an instant signal that customers are in the premises.)

September and October brings the seasonal harvest time closure of an alley connecting Fifth Street and the Granary District, a place popular with vehicles and pedestrians. The Granary Square is closed to all but vineyard vehicles as it becomes a hive-like center of grape-crushing and wine-making activity. Pedestrian access is preserved for anyone heading to the Alpine District, and it's a good way to see wine production in action.

It's not the only interesting alley downtown. Another, open 365 and 24/7, is Art Alley, an outdoor gallery now in its third year. Located between Third and Fourth streets and stretching from Davis to Evans streets, it's a night-illuminated collection celebrating local history and culture, flora and fauna, and cultural high points of McMinnville ranging from vintage automobiles to protected butterflies

and vineyards to Linfield University.

McMinnville is filled with large murals that are in some cases hidden or off the beaten path: a train-and-plane one is the largest in town, on Alpine Avenue; nearly as large is the Christian-themed Mt. Hood and vineyards panorama on Adams Street just north of Third Street; "The Heist," whimsy involving bees and grapes, is blink-and-you-miss it on Third Street near Irvine Street; and one involving every iconic McMinnville image, from UFOs to guitars, is nearly hidden on the east side of the Boho Building on First, near Irvine. The outdoor patio of Conservatory Bar is the perfect place to admire it. From Art Alley to Boho, these murals all are located within a leisurely one-hour walk of each other.

All told, the murals bring McMinnville close to rivaling such classic Northwest mural towns as Toppenish, Wash., The Dalles, Oregon and Estacada, Oregon.

Add two more, the newest murals in town, underway in fall and winter 2025-26, including one that is both the largest one yet – and the hardest to see. It's in the commercial expanse on the east end of town, at the Smooth Roots marijuana store's new second location, 2533 Highway 99, adjacent



to Big 5 Sporting Goods. The mural is on the west (back) wall of the building Smooth Roots shares with two other businesses. The mural wraps around three sides of the structure, the main part of it (Smooth Roots' familiar friendly green alien) visible on the parking lot drive connecting the Walmart and WinCo foods complex.

Also on view:

- A smaller mural of colorful birds in the jungle, on the outside walls of The Colorful Macaw salon on Northeast Baker near downtown;
- A free-standing mural on the west side of Joe Dancer Park, depicting large bees;
- An abstract mural on the patio between Mac Market and historic Huberd Shoe Grease Building, Lafayette and 11th avenues.

Highway 99W/Baker Street on the northeast end of town is a busy shopping thoroughfare with enjoyable places to stop awhile, including the Vineyard food truck court next to Grocery Outlet, and locally-owned coffee shops, taprooms, and restaurants.

Coming from the north you might have seen it: at Baker and 15th streets, a memorial park that's distinct for being practically invisible while at one of the busiest intersections in town

The unusual triangle park is home to a flag plaza and three plaques. It seems daunting to set foot on the park but can be done with a little caution; try parking at the adjacent school district parking lot and then – carefully – cross Baker Street and the short section of 15th.

Coming from the south on Baker/Highway 99W are a variety of newly-opened bakeries, restaurants and coffee shops, and the food court and taqueria at Mac Plaza next to El Rancho market.

Slide over to Lafayette Avenue for two new dining-drinking establishments: 1109 Lafayette bar, and the nearby pizza and beer outpost of Tualatin-based Stickmen Brewery. These are just around the corner from the refurbished Mac Market, home to pizza, baked goods, beer and cocktails, and an expanded fine-foods market. ■

# Alpine district is an evolving gateway to the north side of downtown

by Kirby Neumann-Rea

The Gateway District, on the northeast side of downtown, suffers from some identity confusion. It's a planning document term that no one really uses. Created in 2017, it's a corridor bounded by Alpine and Lafayette avenues, and generally just called Alpine or the Alpine District.

But it's an enjoyable place to get to know, confusion be darned.

(That the wide area where Alpine and Seventh meets is alternately called Granary District, or square, is perhaps further confusion.)

So we will call it Alpine: the redevelopment between Seventh and 11th avenues, made possible by special Urban Renewal District funds. Understand that it is a place that is always changing, and in the near future will see significant change.

Twenty years ago, community input guided creation of a new type of mixed commercial and residential thoroughfare, a place where vehicles can comfortably co-exist with walkers and bikers. (A bicycle fix-it stations is located at Seventh and Alpine.)

The project modified the

mixed-use stretch of street with an industrial-chic look befitting the area's manufacturing past (and, sort of, present.)

Add a vibrant mural that is the longest one in town. But this is still a car-dominated avenue. Suffice it to say Alpine residents' parking techniques are best described as creative to the point of pedestrians occasionally needing to veer out into the street.

The meandering pedestrian ways parallel a narrow, serpentine street way that seems to expand and contract between two lanes and one, giving it a kind of urban pulse. Highlighting Alpine are seating areas and planters – feel free to take a flower and pick and eat those tomatoes, peppers, herbs or strawberries.

Yet despite the informal design and free produce, Alpine has yet to meet its intended potential as a pedestrian-friendly “festival street” among homes, wineries and breweries, and other retail and manufacturing concerns.

Actually, not much manufacturing happens, after the departure in 2023 of a rubber plant; there's a cabinet-maker, painter, winery and a bakery along with the food and drink purveyors.

In 2024 the city purchased

a major portion of Alpine, between Eighth and 10th, a former plant that manufactured rubber mats, and hired a planning group to come up with a development plan for a mix of residential and commercial, including a hotel. It's early days, with a variety of visions



PHOTO BY KIRBY-NEUMANN-REA

contemplated, but once a plan is enacted in a few years, it will further transform the Alpine District. In early 2026 the city settled on a contract with a developer, Guardian, to create housing and retail on the property; the timeline for completion is years out.

As of 2026, restaurants at the two ends of Alpine, and those purveyors of beer and wine, can serve to attract pedestrians; the mix has matured with the addition

BELOW: Day by Day Bar, Mac Market, RIGHT: Alpine Avenue

of a bakery, boutique hotel, and even a free tool library. The Boutique Retreat, a circle of unique overnight accommodations surrounding a leafy courtyard, opened in 2024. In January 2026 ground broke on Piquette, a new hotel, three blocks north.

With these changes, and others, Alpine has seen significant revitalization in the last two years.

In 2023-24, two vacant buildings on Alpine Avenue between Seventh and Eighth were transformed into three businesses: restaurants Alpine Kitchen (breakfast and lunch) and Alpine Crossing (lunch and dinner) and Loft and Lies bar, which has four simulated golf stations, and a warren of small- and medium-sized gathering places.

One hallway joins all three businesses, owned by the same folks who have the brewery-restaurant Grain Station Brew Works across the street. (Look for some layout and operational changes in 2026 at the complex.) Meanwhile, owners have plans to turn a third adjoining building into an interior gaming center. Alpine Crossing has a large patio, as does Grain Works which shares its with Flag and Wire Coffee, in the same building.

Village Provisions is located a block southwest, around the corner on Seventh near Lafayette, and grouped on or near 10th are the venerable The Eyrie Vineyards winery and tasting room and Heater Allen Brewery as well as Blue Raeven Pies, along with the new McMinnville Tool Library.

At the north end, Mac Market

looks plenty different than it used to. Wellspend Market is there, and Honey Pie pizza, with new tenants Alea Bakery, Day By Day bar (“coffee and cheap beer”) and Collective-Ts. With the departure of Hayward restaurant to Carlton, there's additional seating on the main floor and patio, to go with the popular mezzanine and deck.

A unique feature of Alpine is its street names. Distinct to the Alpine, you have Seventh, Ninth, 10th, 11th and 12th AVENUES – not streets. Everywhere else in town the numbered streets are called streets. Yet, between Alpine and Lafayette in this area, they are avenues. Now, you may notice that the list skips Eighth – a street everywhere in town since it is an arterial

and the only street in the neighborhood north of Fifth that is not interrupted by the Portland-Willamette railroad tracks. Alpine is basically a long narrow triangle bounded by Lafayette Avenue and the train tracks.

Indeed, that raiaside location adds a further indo/retro aura to the entire neighborhood. Boutique hotels and legacy wineries rub elbows with a wrecked-car lot, self-storage complexes and, formerly that rubber plant.

So Eighth remains a street but in Alpine the rest are avenues. An added twist: a block apart are both an 11th Avenue AND an 11th Way, whose street sign is oddly abbreviated to “Wy”. It's the one after 11th Avenue, before you get to 12th Avenue. And, yeah, 13th goes through so it's a Street again.

Confused? In Alpine, that's okay. It's a good place to get lost, in itself or as an extended walk from nearby downtown. It's a pleasant way to spend an hour or two: a stroll from downtown out Fifth to the Mac-onic Buchanan Cellers building, down the short Granary District alley and onto Alpine, as far as Mac Market, given the amenable stops along the way for food and drink.

Think of Alpine as a neighborhood with a distinct character, separate from downtown but closely connected. A few strategic partnerships with property owners, primarily the railroad, have the potential of enhancing the physical link between the Alpine and Third Street zones, but Fifth remains an amenable connection. ■



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MCMINNVILLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

# LIVING HERE



PHOTO PROVIDED BY JAKE VOIZ / EAGLE EYE DRONEGRAPHY

## Mac is a train town

and other tips for getting around

by Kirby Neumann-Rea

**I**dea: a dollar-off drink or other bonus to anyone who gets stuck by the same train three times in the same cross-town trip. It happens. There's other transportation wrinkles to Mac but let's start with a basic bugaboo: This is a train town.

It takes some pretty unlucky timing but, depending on your route, it is possible to get held up multiple times by the Portland and Willamette Valley Railroad at the following intersections: Booth Bend Road, Davis near Linfield Avenue, First near Ford, Second near Irvine, or Third near Johnson. Then there's Fifth near Irvine,

Eighth near Alpine, 13th near Lafayette, and Lafayette at McDaniel. Bonus points if you get delayed on Riverside Drive east of Highway 99W.

Next to Linfield University, the rail line bisects the athletic complex, which makes a familiar sight of track athletes seen competing on both sides of the tracks.

And then there's the train horn: long, loud and repeated. Get used to it.

People often walk across the trestle between First and Ford streets, but it ain't legal.

In town, the right of way remains officially off-limits along a decommissioned rail line between Second and Fifth streets. Pedestrians frequently traverse the yard, though. The

idea's been floated to create a designated trail for people to easily go between Third Street and the Granary District. (Meanwhile, the historic depot building on Third is posted with a half-dozen "no trespassing signs." They mean it.)

By car, there are three main entrances to town: from the northeast on Highway 99W, where your first impression might have been hulking Cascade Steel Rolling Mills; from the southeast, on Highway 18 turning onto Three Mile Lane and into downtown; or, from the south via Highway 99 or Highway 18 depending on your approach being Corvallis way or from

**ABOVE:** Alpine Avenue District, near the corner of Eighth & Alpine

the Oregon coast.

Only on that third option do you actually see a "Welcome" sign, by the way, where 99 and 18 meet. One is planned for the northeast entrance – the plaza built in mid-2025 but as of early 2026 awaited installation of the sign itself. The sign will replace one on Three Mile Lane that was removed in 2021 as part of the bridge replacement project, finished in 2024.

As with outskirts of many towns, you tend to see conglomerations of businesses, and all three McMinnville entrances flow into the three distinct commercial areas of McMinnville:

■ There's the 4.2-mile Highway 99W corridor, which passes



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through the iconic Third Street core, on its way north and east to the Highway 47 junction to Carlton.

■ Then, south, the Three Mile Line section, primarily the hospital, light industrial and medical offices, dotted with a McDonald's, a few motels, The Diner cafe, and McMinnville Cinemas.

Look at a map of McMinnville and you'll see a kind of pinwheel look with the main drags and arterials splaying in all directions. City limits look a bit gerrymandered, some gangly appendages to the west and then the protruding, trumpet-shaped section of Three Mile Lane/Highway 18 to the southeast, joined by a narrow isthmus where Third Street turns into Three Mile Lane and crosses the South Yamhill River.

■ Moving to the west side, at Southwest Hill Road and West Second Street is a small commercial district with one restaurant, a convenience store, assisted living centers, several churches and a variety of medical and other professional offices.

Getting there is primarily a matter of taking Second Street from the intersection at Adams, which is often highly congested. Other east-west arterials are Baker Creek Road, to the north, and the

residential Fellows Avenue to the south, but the east-west route to focus on is Second Street.

(West Second Trip Tip: check Sunday service times at Calvary Mac church a mile or so out West Second – sure, if you'd like to attend, but also as a section of road to avoid just before or just after worship times.)

When West Second is busy, a detour of sorts is Baker Creek Road, and some unusual art pieces are part of the pleasure of heading up Hill Road. The pieces themselves might be considered unusual, but the fun is in their location – in the middle of the only two full roundabouts in town. Full, that is, because three "traffic circles" are to be found in Joe Dancer Park; traffic circles is how they are defined in signage at the park, probably because they are smaller.

Finally, a note about parking: You might think parking is at a premium on busy Third Street and its adjoining blocks. Sometimes it truly is, but even during busiest seasons there is parking to be found in free lots found on Second and Fourth streets between Baker and Davis streets, and over at Fifth and Evans is the free parking garage: the 1980s brutalist structure isn't inviting, but it's free and just two blocks off Third. ■



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- 1 **Small-town friendliness and culture**
- 2 **A variety of housing choices**, from condominiums and apartments in town to single-family residences of all sizes to farm and wine properties a few minutes' drive into the countryside.
- 3 **Location, location, location** – proximity to the Oregon coast, the Portland Metro Area, the state capital and ski resorts, all within a short drive. The Portland International Airport also is nearby, with flights to destinations around the world.
- 4 **Plenty to do**, from concerts to museums to cycling trails to community theater, plus summer activities hosted by the McMinnville Parks and Recreation Department.
- 5 **A wide array of businesses** for shopping and employment, including retail shops, award-winning restaurants, manufacturers and service businesses.
- 6 **Year-round wine tasting** and opportunities to see the wine-making community up close.
- 7 **Volunteer opportunities**, including numerous service clubs such as Soroptimist, Lions, Rotary and Kiwanis.
- 8 **Quality schools** that consistently do as well or better than the state average. In addition to public schools, there are several private schools for K-12 students and Linfield University and Chemeketa Community College in McMinnville and George Fox University in Newberg.
- 9 **Well-ranked medical facilities, doctors and specialists.** Willamette Valley Medical Center and Providence Newberg Hospital, emergency-care clinics, Physicians Medical Center and other clinics are available, along with a full-service cancer treatment center.
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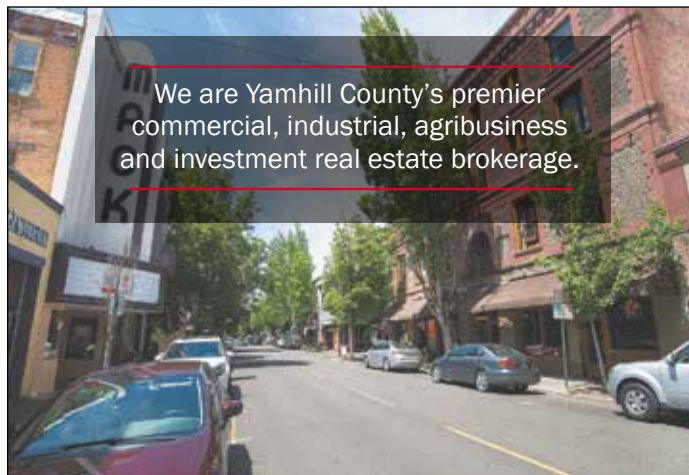


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# CALENDAR of EVENTS



July  
Yamhill  
County Fair

# 2026

CHECK EVENT WEBSITES  
FOR DATES AND TIMES

**Make Music Day**  
McMinnville,  
makemusicday.org/mcminnville

**Sheridan Home Town Days**  
cityofsheridanor.com

**Carlton Fun Days**  
facebook.com/carltonfundays

**JULY**  
**McMinnville Art Festival  
by ArtWorks**  
Downtown McMinnville  
aaycor.org/mcminnville-art-festival

**Vintage in the Valley Market**  
Downtown McMinnville  
vintageinthevalleymarket.com

**St. Paul Rodeo**  
St. Paul, stpaulrodeo.com

**Willamina Old-Fashioned  
Fourth of July**  
Willamina, willaminaoregon.gov

**Lavender Festival  
& Plein Air Paint Out**  
Chehalem Cultural Center, Newberg,  
chehalemculturalcenter.org

**Summer Nights Vintage Car Show**  
Yamhill Valley Heritage Center,  
McMinnville, yamhillcountyhistory.org

**Porklandia**  
Downtown Carlton  
carltonbusinessassociation.com

**Marcellus Norwest  
Memorial Veterans Powwow**  
Uyxat Powwow Grounds,  
Grand Ronde, grandronde.org

**Fueled By Fine Wine Half Marathon**  
Dundee Hills,  
foottraffic.us/the-races/fueled

**UFO Festival**  
Downtown McMinnville  
ufofest.com

**Memorial Weekend Boat Races**  
Rogers Landing, Newberg  
newbergboatclub.org

**Memorial Day Wine Tasting Weekend**  
Valley-wide, oregonwinepress.com

**JUNE**  
**Summer Garden Tour & Faire**  
McMinnville  
mcminnvillegardenclub.org

**Oregon Brews & Barbeque**  
Yamhill Co. Fairgrounds, McMinnville  
orbrewsandbbqs.com

**Quilts in Bloom**  
Yamhill County Fairgrounds,  
McMinnville  
willamettevalleyquilters.com

**Wildwood Music Festival**  
Tindle Ranch, Willamina  
wildwoodfestivalrevival.org

**Hay Day/Play Day  
& Vintage Baseball**  
Yamhill Valley Heritage Center,  
McMinnville  
yamhillcountyhistory.org

**APRIL**  
**Newberg Camellia Festival**  
Chehalem Cultural Center  
chehalemculturalcenter.org

**MAY**  
**Yamhill-Carlton Spring Tasting**  
Abbey Road Farm  
yamhillcarlton.org

**Flavors of Carlton**  
Abbey Road Farm,  
Yctogethercares.com

**Farm Fest & Plowing Competition**  
Yamhill Valley Heritage Center,  
McMinnville  
yamhillcountyhistory.org

**Terroir Writing Festival**  
Chehalem Cultural Center, Newberg,  
terroircreativewritingfestival.com

**Camas Festival**  
Linfield University,  
Linfield.edu/camasfest

**Edible Gardening Festival**  
Mac Market, McMinnville,  
edibleyamhill.org

**Shakespeare in the Courtyard**  
Linfield University, McMinnville,  
Linfield.edu/tca/events



**Yamhill Derby Days**  
Beulah City Park,  
facebook.com/yamhillderbydays

**Newberg Old-Fashioned Festival**  
newbergoldfashionedfestival.org

**Old Timers Weekend**  
Dayton, ci.dayton.or.us

**Yamhill County Fair**  
Yamhill Co. Fairgrounds, McMinnville  
yamhillcountyfairs.com

**AUGUST**  
**Valley View Car Show & Festival**  
Rock of Ages, McMinnville  
rockofagesvalleyview.com

**Bounty of Yamhill County**  
Sokol Blosser Vineyard  
yamhillenrichmentsociety.org

**Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde**  
Contest Powwow Uyxat Powwow  
Grounds, grandronde.org

**Lemonade Day**  
McMinnville  
lemonadeday.org/mcminnville

**Harvest Fest**  
Yamhill Valley Heritage Center  
yamhillcountyhistory.org

**Cruising McMinnville**  
Downtown McMinnville  
cruisingmcminnville.com

**SEPTEMBER**  
**Carlton Crush Harvest Festival**  
Downtown Carlton  
carltoncrush.com

**Oregon International Air Show**  
McMinnville Airport,  
oregonairshow.com

**OCTOBER**  
**Art Harvest Studio Tour**  
Valley-wide, artharveststudiotour.org

**McMinnville Scottish Festival**  
Yamhill County Fairgrounds  
Celticheritage.org

**NOVEMBER**  
**Willamina Coastal Art Tour**  
facebook.com/willaminaarttour

**Thanksgiving Wine Tasting Weekend**  
Valley-wide, oregonwinepress.com

**iSalud! Oregon Pinot Noir Auction**  
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Domaine Serene, Dayton,  
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**Santa Parade & Tree Lighting**  
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**DECEMBER**  
**Handmade Holiday Bazaar**  
Yamhill Valley Heritage Center  
yamhillcountyhistory.org

**Wine Country Holiday  
Home Tour & Auction**  
McMinnville, simcminnville.org

**FEBRUARY**  
**The Melt Down**  
Valley-wide, yamhillcap.org

**McMinnville Short Film Festival**  
McMinnville, mcminnvillefilmfest.org

**Oregon Truffle Festival**  
Yamhill County, Various Locations  
oregontrufflefestival.org

**MARCH**  
**McMinnville Wine + Food Classic**  
Evergreen Air & Space  
Museum, McMinnville  
mcminnvillewineandfood.com

**Newgrass Festival**  
Chehalem Cultural Center, Newberg  
newgrassfest.com

**Amity Daffodil Festival** amitydig.org

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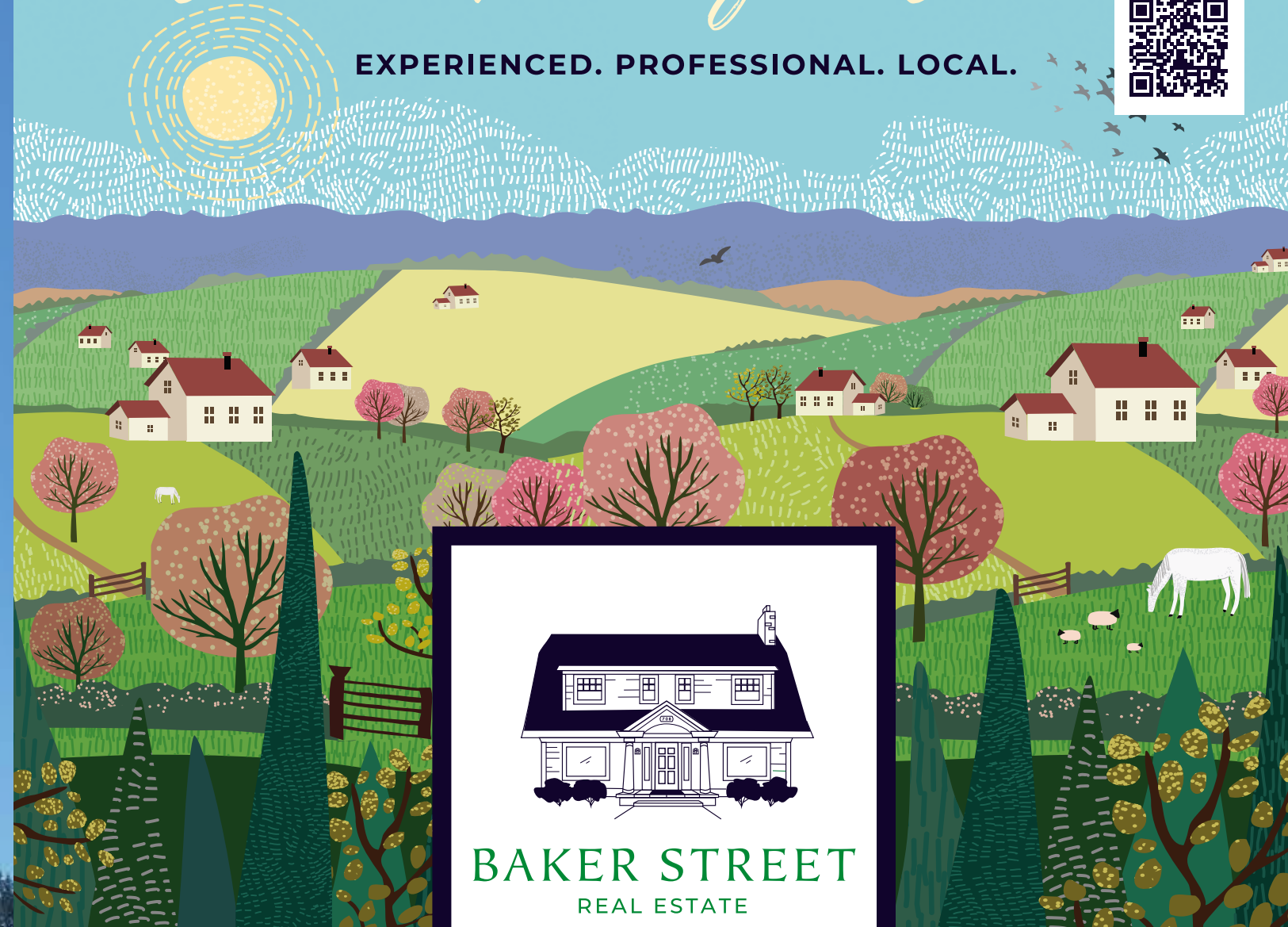
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