

Stayton/Sublimity Chamber of Commerce runs around the block

Chamber enjoying new digs in Stayton

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STAYTON – It may be just around the block, but with a larger space and free rent, the move of the Stayton/Sublimity Chamber of Commerce in July is more than just convenient – it’s good business.

The Chamber of Commerce has recently moved from its location at Third Avenue and Ida Street to a new building owned by the Stayton Cooperative Telephone Company (SCTC) on the corner of Second Avenue and High Street.

One of the main reasons for the move, Executive Director Sue Nichols said, was because SCTC offered the Chamber the space rent-free for the next two years, after which SCTC will decide if they need to use the space.

“This is great because now we have a free spot instead of paying rent. We’re a nonprofit, so anyplace we can save is good,” Nichols said. “Now we can save our money to eventually buy our own building.”

She also said that SCTC has been a “good community partner” in the past, providing the Chamber with free Internet access and new computers.

“The Chamber is a great business supporter,” SCTC President Don Lawrence said. “They bring people together and help economic development.”

Lawrence said that SCTC purchased the building on Second Avenue and High Street approximately five years ago, and noticed that they were not using the empty space.

“We bought the building for future use, but we hadn’t filled the space,” he said. “We’ve always had a good relationship with the Chamber, so it seemed like a good fit.”

The Chamber of Commerce is still in the central historic downtown area, across the street from the post office, but now, with the new location, Nichols feels that the Chamber will be better prepared to serve the community.

“We should be able to function better and serve our members by having a better workspace,” Nichols said. “Before, it was difficult to accomplish things. Now, we’re better organized and have a more efficient workspace that’s bigger and laid out much better.”