

## Keep it Local, Columbia County! Small Business Saturday, 2015

On Saturday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, Columbia County hosted their annual Keep it Local, Columbia County, Small Business Saturday Event. This event, intended to promote small, local businesses, helped kick off the holiday season and from 10am – 12pm, at the Old Train Depot in St. Helens, visitors could pick up an Elf on the Shelf Bingo card to use for a scavenger hunt, a reusable shopping bag, and information on local resources and businesses. At the same time, raffles, a snack bar, and beverages were available as well. The Elf on the Shelf Bingo Card allowed visitors to find elves at each local business location they visited and be rewarded with a stamp. When all thirteen elves were found and stamped, the card holder was entered into the grand prize drawing. All bingo cards must be returned to the St. Helens City Hall by December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The 2015 Keep it Local, Columbia County! Small Business Saturday was organized by the St. Helens Economic Development Corporation (SHEDCO) and the South Columbia County Chamber of Commerce, and included partnership and participation from the Clatskanie, Rainier, and Vernonia Chambers of Commerce, the City of St. Helens, City of Scappoose and Columbia City. The goal of this event is to get community members thinking about, and shopping locally which will stimulate economic growth across the county as visitors can explore unique retail, dining, and other activities available in their communities.

SHEDCO is a local nonprofit organization run by volunteers who are focused on increasing economic vitality on Main Street Corridor in St. Helens. For more information on this year's event, or even next year's, contact Anya Moucha at [mainstreet@ci.st-helens.or.us](mailto:mainstreet@ci.st-helens.or.us), or by phone at 503.366.8232.

Andrew Demko

CCCCB Board Member