

John Klatt Award Recipient of 2026: Alma Coston

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The West Linn Historical Society honors long-time resident Alma Coston with the 2026 John Klatt Award. Alma's dedication to the preservation of West Linn heritage is evident through many years of committee work and leadership on organizations that support history in our community.

Alma moved to West Linn in 1962 where her new husband lived and they purchased a wooded lot at Hood and Burns Street. She taught arts and crafts in area schools for 32 years. Her home sits above the Maddax property where she became friends with Dorothy Maddax.

When Dorothy died in 1999, she had a will leaving her property to West Linn. She spelled out her wishes for West Linn to maintain the property as a natural park. Alma joined a group of her close friends and neighbors who met with the City to develop a design for the park. This group became the Friends of Maddax Woods and Dorothy and Virgil Maddax's stories.

In addition to her commitment to Maddax Woods, Alma served as a member of the planning committee to celebrate West Linn's centennial in 2013 and led the effort to create the centennial quilt that still hangs in the West Linn Library. Alma was a founding member of the Advocates for Willamette Falls Heritage (formerly Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation) and helped organize the Willamette Falls Flotilla in 2002, which later became Lock Fest. She has also been involved with the Bolton Neighborhood Association, the West Linn Garden Club and the Celebrate Recovery program at the New Life Church and is a member of the Aurora Colony.

The West Linn Historical Society is proud to recognize Alma Coston with the 2026 John Klatt Award for her contribution to West Linn heritage.



The John Klatt Award is given annually by the West Linn Historical Society to a group or individual for significant contribution to preserving and celebrating the heritage of West Linn. John Klatt was a longtime resident of the Historic Willamette Neighborhood in West Linn. He was a founding member of the West Linn Historical Society, which got their start in 2014. Past recipients of the John Klatt Award include Larry McIntyre, Mike Walters and the Friends of McLean Park and House, Sandy Carter, and Jody Carson

