

## Library

Continued from A1

The new building will be two stories, with an outdoor patio for community gatherings. For adults, there will be meeting rooms and co-working spaces geared to telecommuters. The largest meeting space will be able to hold 240 people. There will also be dedicated spaces for teens and children. It will be a net zero energy building, powered by solar panels installed on its roof. There will be a drive-up book drop and pickup. A Deschutes County ballot drop box will also return to the site once construction is finished.

"The number one thing people wanted to see in Redmond were interactive children's discovery spaces, so that's a big piece of this library," said Todd Dunkleberg, director of the Deschutes County Library.

According to Dunkleberg, the library is working with an architecture firm that helped design exhibits for OMSI in Portland. Together, they will plan out the children's spaces. He said there will be a number of interactive elements in the space.

Still, it's hard to see Jessie Hill come down. Originally called the Redmond Grade School, Jessie Hill was the first modern grade school built in Redmond. It replaced a 1910 two-story wooden structure that sat on the same site. In 1948, the name of the school was changed to Jessie Hill School in honor of one of Redmond's early teachers. It was converted to a library in 1996.

"Probably one of the hardest parts of this (is) that we will be demolishing the current building," said Dunkleberg.

Library officials said they tried to think of ways to reno-



Rendering courtesy Deschutes Public Library

This rendering of the second floor of the Redmond Public Library, which will have shelves of books for browsing and a number of small meeting rooms.

vate the current space, but said nothing they could do would meet the growing needs in the area. Dunkleberg said the new building is likely to last for 50-100 years.

"Really what we're designing it for and gearing it for is the future population that is coming to Redmond, knowing by the year 2040 we're going to have a much larger population and that building will be able to serve that population," he said.

In the meantime, the library's collection will move to a building in the Redmond Design

### Open house sessions

The library is hosting a number of open house drop-in sessions to share construction details and answer questions.

#### Thursday, Dec. 8

8-10 a.m. and 4:30-6:30 p.m. (evening hours will have Spanish fluency)

#### Thursday, December 15

8-10:00 a.m.

Center strip mall, near Wilson's Furniture. The 5,000-square-foot space will remain open to the public throughout construction. Dunkleberg said they plan to move some of their programming and story time to other areas in the city.

The new library is expected to open in fall 2024.

Reporter: ttrainor@redmondspokesman.com



Nick Rosenberger/Spokesman

The Redmond Library will temporarily relocate to 2127 S Hwy 97 as the historic downtown location will be torn down and replaced with a new two-story library.

## Toast

Continued from A1

The one-hour weekly meetings are heavily structured. They include roles including president, toastmaster, grammarian, timer, humorist and speaker. Attendees have timed slots to give "toasts" and the humorist makes jokes for a few minutes. The speaker has to give a five-to-seven minute presentation to the entire group.

Evaluators give constructive feedback at the end of the meeting. Throughout it, members have multiple opportunities to chime in as well. It's feedback, and tips for improvement, that most speakers yearn for.

"Most of us are here because we want to learn to communicate better," said Cheri Redgrave, owner of non-dairy milk substitute company Cheri's Hazel Cream. "Whether it's with our families, whether or not it's with our colleagues, our non-profits, the people that we work with every day — we need to be able to speak with them clearly and concisely."

Redgrave said members improve by watching and learning from each other, and from positive reinforcement.



Nick Rosenberger/Spokesman

Eric Rogers speaks during a Toastmasters meeting at the Church of Christ on Nov. 29 in Redmond.

"The thing that's so interesting about Toastmasters is we don't have a teacher," Redgrave said. "Nobody stands up here and tells us how to be better speaker. We're all teachers."

Eric Rogers, a private investigator, started with the club about two months ago. He joined in part to prepare for fu-

ture public speaking opportunities. As people become more skilled in their careers, they are often asked to speak in front of others. Joining Toastmasters, he said, was a way to get prepared for those moments.

"I still get nervous," he said. "But now it's at a much more manageable level."

Rogers said Toastmasters is a supportive environment that can help people at every level of public speaking. Some beginners just need help getting over the fear of standing in front of a crowd, while experienced speakers can work on eye contact, body language and voice inflection.

### Getting involved

The Redmond Toastmasters club meets every Tuesday for an hour at the Church of Christ at 925 Nw 7th St. in Redmond at 12 p.m.

Those interested can sit in on a meeting to watch and learn more about the club. They will also be hosting an open house on Jan. 10 from 12-1 p.m. at the Church of Christ.

Full membership costs \$60 for six months and includes four hours of practice per month.

Additionally, Toastmasters International includes a resource library, podcasts, videos, 300 skillset competencies, 11 specialized learning paths, an international convention and — for ambitious individuals — the annual World Championship of Public Speaking.

"I wish I would've joined this much sooner," Rogers said.

For many, there's more to Toastmasters than just finding ways to get over the nerves or improving skills. The community, they said, lets them fail without pressure.

"Our diversity is our strength," Redgrave said. "We bring together people from all different backgrounds, all jobs, all different ages. And we're all together on a level playing field."

According to Teresa Schweitzer, the owner of herbal product company T's Tonics, Toastmasters gives them permission to be vulnerable in a safe space and learn through trial and error.

"One of the things that's so

wonderful about Toastmasters is it helps us feel confident in getting good appropriate feedback when we're speaking," said Weimer, who owns Herringbone Bookstore with her husband. "That's one of the things that Toastmasters creates is a calm, safe environment for anyone to get up. If we're going to fail, fail in front of friends so you can pick yourself up and move on."

For Karen Bond, president of the Redmond club, Toastmasters is a well of support and something to fall back on in times of difficulty.

"This group has helped me keep my sanity," Bond said.

Reporter: nrosenberger@redmondspokesman.com

## Sewing

Continued from A1

She then attended college at San Francisco State University, with the goal of working as a screenwriter. Her student job was at Jo-Ann Fabrics & Crafts, which introduced her to the millions of questions that crafters needed answers to, and the part-time work kept her connected to sewing.

After graduation, she moved to Los Angeles to try out a career behind the camera for TV and movies, but found working in Hollywood "an insanely stressful occupation." She kept herself sane by sewing, and eventually started to record videos with her husband from their cramped apartment. Each

video was geared toward helping crafters solve "some creative, technical thing you're trying to accomplish." She had a plan from the beginning — completing a library of 70 videos before sending them out into the public.

"I guess I wanted us to be an encyclopedia," said Opartny. "I wanted people when they found me to find just a tranche of videos."

Opartny said she didn't necessarily have a career in mind at the time, but did notice that people were finding her videos and leaving positive comments and making recommendations for other videos they'd like to see.

About nine years ago, she and her husband came to the con-



Courtesy photo

Tova Opartny, also known as Professor Pincushion, uses well-shot, well-lit sewing videos to teach skills.

clusion that Los Angeles wasn't for them. They chose Redmond as the setting for a lifestyle and career change.

Soon after they arrived, Opartny said the quality and

quantity of their videos went up, as did the audience. They briefly joined a collective of other craft content makers, which introduced them to an even larger audience. Now, the

videos are easy to find in most feeds and bring in reliable viewership. Videos like "How to repair a hole in a t-shirt" has been seen more than 7 million times. Nearly every video she does gets hundreds of thousands of viewers.

Those videos now range in theme, from tackling a project from start to finish, like "How to sew a quilt." Others are short and tackle specific bugaboos, like "How to add a button placket to a garment" or "How to sew a French knot stitch." Some are geared toward helping crafters choose which sewing machines and fabrics they should buy, others answer questions submitted from the audience.

The pandemic was very ben-

eficial to viewership, she said. Many people took up new, indoor and solitary hobbies. Sewing was one of them.

Opartny stars in many of the videos, sporting different hair colors and freshly manicured nails, which stand out in the tight shots of needle and thread. When she took up a pen and paper, Opartny tried to take that same attitude and style to her book.

"I wanted to write it in the cheeky, playful tone I have," she said.

You can find signed copies of the book at both Herringbone Books in Redmond and the Stitchin' Post in Sisters. It can also be purchased online at Amazon, Target, Barnes and Noble and others.

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