

Rotary chapter looks back on 55 years

The local chapter of Rotary International marks an anniversary decades in the making this month.

The local Rotary club celebrated its 55th birthday during its regular noon meeting on Thursday, a celebration that included a brief history of the club.

In early 1960, then Cottage Grove Police Chief Carl Rumpf, along with Paul McCoy — the club's last surviving charter member — and 24 other Cottage Grove businessmen and civic leaders, petitioned Rotary International for a charter to establish a Rotary Club in South Lane County. The charter was granted in October of 1960. The Charter night banquet and installation of officers was held at the Village Green, on Saturday, Nov. 26, 1960. After the original Charter members signed, an additional 10 were signed in at the banquet, making a total of 35.

The local Rotary Club has been a leader in Region 5110 since its formation. Today, there are 67 Rotary clubs in District



Rotary's Don Williams (left) and Jessica Baker of the CG Community Hospital Foundation talk Rotary history with Paul McCoy, the club's last charter member.

5110, which takes in clubs from Corvallis to Northern California and from Burns to the Pacific Ocean.

Worldwide, Rotary clubs number over 34,000. Rotary is organized and active in over 200 countries.

Most of Rotary's activities are on the local level, such as the South Lane Dental program, an annual Christmas party, scholarships, aid to the Family Relief Nursery, and a soon-to-be-unveiled project, the third phase of Coiner Park's children's playground equipment.

The local club has 17 projects, which are rotated according to budget and needs. Others include a dictionary program

for third-graders and Interact (a sort of junior Chamber of Commerce in the high school). As programs are needed, they are brought back to address additional needs of the community.

The local chapter is also active in International projects. Leaders say its main focus for many years has been Polio Plus, the eradication of polio worldwide. The club also has a library project in Thailand and is active in International Exchange Student Programs.

The local Rotary club will celebrate Christmas with a program on Dec. 17. The featured entertainment will be Socially Insecure, a comedy barbershop quartet that originates out of the

Cascade Chorus. Of the four members of the quartet, two — Kevin Stevens and Bob Martindale — are past presidents of CG Rotary Club. It is planned to have McCoy, the last remaining Charter member, attend the celebration, which will also include a celebration of his 96th birthday.

Those who would like to attend this special Rotary meeting are asked to RSVP a week in advance to janover@epud.net. The meeting is scheduled for 12 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17 at Stacy's Covered Bridge Restaurant, and the cost is \$12 per person for lunch.

Celebration of area farmers planned at Bohemia Park

The second in a pair of annual events designed to highlight the contributions that local farmers make to the area's food systems takes place this Saturday, Oct. 24 at Bohemia Park and the nearby Bohemia Public Market.

Beth Pool of cgFEAST, which aims to promote local farmers and their wares, said the group joined with the First Presbyterian Church last spring to help organize its annual Meet My Farmer event. Saturday's gathering, which will feature family activities in the park in the afternoon and dinner and dancing at the market in the evening, is billed as "Celebrate our Farmers" and runs from 1-10 p.m.

From 1-5 p.m., activities at Bohemia Park include a farmer's market, a pie walk, creating seed masks and pumpkin carving. At the Public Market, located across from the park at the

corner of 10th and Washington streets, a free dinner, beverages provided for sale by the Brewstation and Iris Vineyards and entertainment by the Wood Tone Trio and Matt Hall and Friends, is scheduled for 5-10 p.m. Pool said the proceeds from the event will support similar events in the future.

Pool said a number of local students have also contributed to the event, including staffing booths at the park and dinner. She explained that cgFEAST is the food-focused branch of Sustainable Cottage Grove, which "works to make Cottage Grove as sustainable as possible," according to its website. These efforts are in turn funded by the Healing Matrix downtown. Those interested in more information about Saturday's event or these organizations can call Pool at 541-942-2360.

Dedication of Little Free Libraries planned

Last of 16 libraries to be installed at All-America City Square

A project spearheaded by community leaders under the tutelage of the Ford Family Foundation's leadership program will culminate in an unveiling this Friday, Oct. 23 at All-America City Square in downtown Cottage Grove.

Close to 40 members of the Ford Family Foundation's leadership training cohort began

meeting in January of 2014 to learn how to become more effective leaders in their communities. Throughout monthly meetings in the winter and spring of 2014, they worked to identify a project that could enhance the lives of those in Cottage Grove and Creswell.

From a list of over 60 project ideas came the eventual winner, Little Free Libraries of South Lane County, an effort notably championed by the cohort's youngest member, Cottage Grove High student Allie Harris, and its oldest, Don Strahan. Beginning at 5 p.m. Friday, the group will unveil the last of the 16 Little Free Libraries at the square, located at the corner of Seventh and Main streets.

Little Free Libraries are based on the "take a book, leave a book" model, and they're designed to be simple, well crafted, free and open to the public at all hours. The project aims to promote reading and literacy while fostering a desire to learn in local neighborhoods, and the libraries are also designed as neighborhood gathering spaces that can potentially help build a stronger community. The first two libraries were installed at Stewart Park at the corner of Eighth and Johnson streets and at the Vealey House in the Northwest Neighborhood.

The Little Free Library project also announced that it is in need of children's books to fill the free libraries. Those with books to donate are welcome to bring them to Friday's celebration.

Ballot for Nov. 3 election includes only fire levy

By press time Monday, voters in South Lane County had likely received by mail their ballot for the Tuesday, Nov. 3 election. And if they've opened that ballot, they'll likely notice that there is but one decision to be made.

South Lane County Fire and Rescue's Ballot Measure 20-

237 asks local voters to approve a bond to raise \$2.6 million to replace five of the District's vehicles at a rate of \$.30 per \$1000 of assessed property value for local taxpayers. If approved, the Fire District plans to use bond revenue to purchase a ladder truck, two fire engines and two water tenders. Wooten said the

District is currently looking at a ladder truck that can possibly be purchased for around \$800,000, though they can cost up to \$1.2 million. New engines start at about \$380,000, he said, and water tenders are comparably priced.

The District has not purchased a new fire engine since

its inception with the merger of the Cottage Grove and Creswell departments in 2003; according to a fact sheet prepared by South Lane Fire, the average age of the fleet is 24 years old. The District was able to secure bond funding to staff its everyday operations in 2012, but that funding cannot be used to purchase equipment.



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