

Opal Center ready for a facelift



COURTESY LANCE TROXLEY

A rendering of the planned remodel of the Opal Center's storefront is shown above. The project is currently in the bidding phase and is expected to be completed by the fall of this year, in time for the theatre's holiday season.

By Caitlyn May
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While the turn over from summer to fall usually means it gets a bit darker a bit earlier, passersby on Main Street will notice more light near the Opal Center.

The theatre, located at 513 Main Street, will be undergoing a facelift, expected to be completed by early fall.

"What we're doing is, we're redoing the façade of the Opal Center to make it fit better with downtown as well as something more representative of Opal itself because it's the theatre and art space," said Opal Center board member and director Lance Troxley.

The transformation will include a brand new marquee sign with light up letters spelling out Opal as well as changes to the

exterior windows. According to Troxley, the windows will be more representative of the windows that the building would have had originally.

"We're going to remove the

"I think it's going to put a much more accurate face on Opal."

-Lance Troxley, Opal board member

gable that's there now," Troxley said. "Right now, it feels very kid-ish and we have a whole range of events that absolutely include kids but also adults from some of our serious plays and during the holiday season."

Opal, one of two theatres in Cottage Grove, hosts several plays and workshops through-

out the year including dance classes from Dancability—a group dedicated to including all body types and abilities in dance. It also hosts Storybook Theatre, a week-long camp for

high school students that centers around college-level theatre classes and culminates in a showcase for a private panel of professionals, followed by a community show.

The owner of the building, according to Troxley, is funding much of the project and the board is looking for additional funding options through the city.

"I think it's going to put a much more accurate face on Opal and reflect the vibe of what

we do at Opal," Troxley said. "And it will, hopefully, pique interest with the cool marquee letters."

The project has just received the greenlight from the historical commission and is currently collecting bids. It's expected to be complete this fall.

Opal Executive Director Leah Murray said of the project, "We are very excited for the upcoming changes to the front of Opal's side of the Lawson Building. Not only will the improvements bring back some of the historic charm, but our new signage will help us stand out on Main Street to locals and tourists alike. Downtown Cottage Grove is really coming to life and we are thrilled to be a part of it."

The project joins a slew of new projects on Main Street with the Stewart Building undergoing a transformation that includes the incorporation of its original "The Club" sign. The building will eventually feature apartments upstairs and business space on the ground floor.



Pet tips 'N' tales

By Mary Ellen
"Angel Scribe"

Pup Pool Party - A Barking Mad Event!

Has the public pool gone BARKING MAD?! Before closing for upgrades, the pool is GOING TO THE DOGS!

This once in a century event is for all breeds, sizes and colors of dogs and humans to enjoy a PUPPY POOL PARTY. Dogs abso-woof-ly will make a splash in what will paw-roof to be a laughable mayhem-filled memory at Warren H Daugherty Aquatic Center in Cottage Grove, Oregon.

Swimsuits are not required. Um, for K9's that is. Humans must be dressed and attend to lifeguard duties on the deck. There will be no Saint Bernards paw-forming these life saving duties - even if they arrive with a cask of brandy.

Lynn Boe and Christi Hill created Tucker's Cupboard for households in the South Lane School District that struggle financially to care for their canines. The group assists with vet bills, pet medications and their medical equipment on an as-needed basis. The local vet clinics refer candidates to them and they are endorsed by the Humane Society of Cottage Grove.

When Lynn, an avid swimmer, heard of the pool's closure, she grabbed onto the idea of a dogs' summer swim party. She asked the South Lane school district for a-purr-ival and they excitedly said, "Yes!"

In a small town, everyone "pools" together and they knew that the entertaining event would be fun for the community's families while contributing donations for animal care.

"One trained lifeguard will be on scene since humans are not allowed in the pool," said Lynn. "Dogs paw-fur leaping off the edge of the 100 by 20 foot pool instead of using the diving board. No swimming cats please! This is strictly a dog event and we don't expect any pet parent to have to make a wild jump in for an emergency."

Swim safety tips are on www.Tuckerscupboard.org. At the fun event, there will be a donation box for aiding local canines.

For paw-tici-pants paw-leasure there will be goodie bags.



Come to a Barking Mad Event! Bring your dog, beach towel and tennis balls and family to this once in a life time pool party!

The group is looking for donations of biscuits and bobbing tennis balls etc.

Our city's hard working narcotics detection and patrol dogs, Kimber and Marco, will be on the job and unable to make a guest appearance. However, they want to thank all the swimming dogs for their help protecting their loving families and guarding their own homes.

Before the pool was built in 1956, Cottage Grove lost 5-6 children a year to drowning. For this reason, Warren Daugherty donated the funds to build the pool. What a hero! Because, once the pool was built not one Cottage Grove child has drowned! Purr-oving that one purrs-on can make a difference in the lives of others!

SWIM PARTY INFO

Warren H Daugherty Aquatic Center
1440 S. 8th Street, Cottage Grove

Time: 1-3 P.M.

Date: Saturday, 25th of August

Cost: Each swimming dogs pays a \$20 cash donation.

General public free.

Proceeds go to Tucker's Cupboard to help dogs in the area.

Don't miss this once in a life time paw-purr-tunity, furbulous, fun, wild crazy event! Watch dozens of dogs enjoying a group swim!

(Share your fun, amazing or crazing pet tips and tales at angelscribe@msn.com or Follow Pet Tips 'n' Tales on Facebook at www.facebook.com/PetTipsandTales. Adopt loving pets online at www.PetFinder.com. For spay or neutering, call the Humane Society at 541-942-2789.)

6-day weather forecast

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| THURSDAY 98° 59° Mostly Sunny | FRIDAY 83° 56° Mostly Sunny |
| SATURDAY 82° 53° Partly Cloudy | SUNDAY 89° 55° Mostly Sunny |
| MONDAY 91° 56° Mostly Sunny | TUESDAY 88° 56° Mostly sunny |

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