

Mayor's Ball planned for Saturday



COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL ARCHIVE PHOTO

Pictured left to right: Tom Munroe, Jeff Gowing, Bill Whiteman, Jim Gilroy, Gary Williams and Darrell Williams. The men attended last year's Mayor's Ball, held at the Cottage Grove Armory.

Cottage Grove has been practicing sustainability long before it became fashionable.

Such is the message of a promotional video prepared for the third-annual Cottage Grove Mayor's Ball, scheduled Saturday, Oct. 6, at the Cottage Grove Armory.

Built in 1931 for the Oregon National Guard using local materials and labor, the Armory was purchased by the City of Cottage Grove after the building was decommissioned in 2009.

Now, restoring Cottage Grove's most iconic downtown building is the community's next exercise in sustainability — and the Mayor's Ball will help finance the complete restoration of the Armory's exterior.

Mayor Jeff Gowing will welcome guests to the Armory, located at 628 Washington

Ave., downtown. The evening features a catered dinner, silent and live auction and the remarks of a featured guest speaker with insight into nearly two decades of military service.

Restoration of the Armory will include the construction of a north tower to facilitate access to all levels of the building, an HVAC overhaul and the construction of new restrooms.

This year's Mayor's Ball aims to bolster the funding needed to renovate the Armory's exterior façade, according to Christina Lund, leader of the development team charged with overseeing the fundraising effort.

"Renovating the exterior of the Armory is a crucial step in its revitalization," Lund said. "Through restoring its façade, we'll be able to showcase the beauty that the Armory's de-

signers originally intended and reintroduce countless locals and visitors to downtown Cottage Grove's most iconic building."

The ball's distinguished guest speaker, Lt. Col. Geoffrey G. Vallee, currently serves as the Deputy Brigade Commander for the 82nd Brigade of the Oregon Air National Guard. Lt. Col. Vallee served as commander of the C/7-158 AVN in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Guests at the Mayor's Ball will also be treated to the sounds of the Emerald City Jazz Kings. The group covers a wide range of popular music

with emphasis on the classic American songbook, swing and jazz standards, and dancing will follow an elegant meal prepared by Oakway Catering.

The event is supported by title sponsor PakTech, a Eugene-based company that manufactures many of the plastic can and bottle holders seen in today's markets.

Those interested in more information about the Mayor's Ball, including ticket, sponsorship and volunteer opportunities, can call 541-942-2441.

Lights go up at the library

By Caitlyn May
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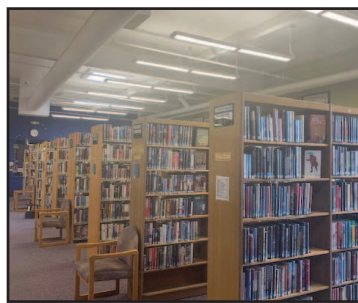
Before the Cottage Grove Library was a library it was a grocery store and after it was a grocery store, it was an office and call center for the hospital; the lights worked just fine.

But no one in a grocery store or an office or a call center had to crouch to see book titles a foot away from the floor in between shelves that reached toward the ceiling.

"It was dark," said Library Services Director Pete Barrell. "The lighting wasn't designed for a library."

Over the month of August, the library saw construction crews installing brand new lighting; new LED lights replaced the circular dimmed lights of the past after an energy audit conducted by the city yielded a savings for future costs.

According to Public Works and Development



Director, Faye Stewart, the audit is part of a city-wide examination of lighting at all city buildings and the opportunity to reduce costs.

"The street lights are being looked at and I know at Bohemia Park we installed LED and one LED bulb used less energy and costed less than all of the other lights," Stewart said.

At the library, the cost difference hasn't been made readily available yet, but people have noticed things are looking brighter.

"People searching for books couldn't see and we used a flashlight at times," Barrell said. "Patrons have notices and will say, 'Wow, we can see the books.'"



Pet tips 'N' tales

By Mary Ellen
"Angel Scribe"

The 'Starr'

A pregnant great dane, Chica, had 24 hours to live when a Great Dane group rescued her from the kill shelter and flew her 1,400 miles to a new shelter. An email arrived in Heather's mail: *Volunteer urgently needed! Someone to foster and whelp puppies.*

"I had no idea what it meant," admitted Heather. So, she innocently wrote back, "I'll step up to bat."

Two days later, an extremely pregnant Chica was delivered to Heather. And two days after that, 13 purebred puppies arrived. Talk about a *big* litter; they all weighed over a pound at birth.

"Trust me, a house full of Great Danes was not on my bucket list or calendar," said Heather.

Now they filled it.

Heather kept records of the puppies' weight and temperature and ribbons were put around their necks for identification.

"It was fun naming them. One pup had a comma and a period marking, so we called him 'Dot Com,'" said Heather. "Another had a star on her forehead. We named her 'Starr,' after Ringo Starr's spelling, and we kept her."

Each puppy had a white tip at the end of its tail and Heather said she has the cutest video of them nursing with all their tails wagging like metronomes.

"Everyone came to see the babies: kids, friends, neighbors, etc. We took the fosters to the park and one lady screamed, 'Stop the car,' to her husband," said Heather. "It was a cuteness overload that she couldn't resist. She laughed and played under a mound of Great Dane puppies."

Chica was so gentle, according to Heather, that she would let her son's bearded dragon, Beady, ride on her back. "Her mothering instinct was amazing," Heather



PHOTO BY MARY ELLEN "ANGEL SCRIBE"

There is no doubt that there is only one "Starr" in Heather's family.

said. "We would look in the puppy pen and she would have gently carried Beady in to join them. Dogs love yams and ours are kept in the pantry. One morning, we awoke to pieces of yams all over the new Persian rug. We followed the bits, like Hansel and Gretel followed bread crumbs, to the puppy pen. Chica was feeding her babies the leftovers. To this day, Starr still loves yams."

Amazingly, Chica and her puppies' adoptive parents all became close friends. Each year, on "our pups" birthday, said Heather, They gather and celebrate at a park.

"There is no question that Starr is a star. When we are out walking, she stops traffic and other walkers. She volunteers at nursing homes and special needs school, the library for children and as a visitor to a 911 call center to de-stress staff," Heather said. "In our recent parade, everyone was calling out 'Starr!' as we walked. She has touched the lives of so many children and relatives and the staff at nursing homes that at least three folks a day say 'Hi' to her when we are out, no matter where we are."

One special needs student, known for screaming fits, has been asking for a kiss from Starr, who would refuse the gesture by tilting her head away. This went on for months.

Then, one day, the child arrived tense and ready to explode. Upon thumping into the room, unprompted, Starr walked up to the child and gave the nicest kiss on the grumpy little face. The child smiled and the angry mood evaporated.

"It is an honor to watch the magic a dog has on others' lives. Everyone should put fostering pets on their bucket list," said Heather. "It was the best thing I ever did."

TIPS:

Prepare early for future easy grooming and vet visits by familiarizing puppies with gentle touches to their body, face and paws. Open their mouths so they become accustomed to someone checking their teeth.

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.

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Sunny

FRIDAY

60° | 48°



Showers

SATURDAY

64° | 44°



Showers

SUNDAY

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Mostly Sunny

MONDAY

64° | 44°



Showers

TUESDAY

62° | 42°



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