

# Wheels and Waves: A blast from the past

Wheels from Page 1A

Mespelt, the show “helped to extend the summer season for downtown merchants.”

In 2004, the association took on a new partnership with Flashback Promotions and local businessman Gary Diebolt, Travis Diebolt’s father. The Wheels and Waves name-change followed. Under Gary Diebolt’s leadership, the car show thrived. He added activities for car owners and visitors to do throughout the weekend.

“He was very much a people person,” local car owner David Pedegana said. “He wanted to make sure everyone had a good time.”

After Gary Diebolt’s death in 2009, the downtown association partnered with Trent Campbell as the event’s next promoter. After that, the association started promoting Wheels and Waves on its own.

## Reliving the past

One of the activities longtime event promoter Gary Diebolt added before his death that remains a tradition is the Senior Cruise.

Starting Thursday at 4:30 p.m., a number of early birds will gather to tour the three local assisted living facilities — Avamere at Suzanne Elise, Avamere at Seaside and Neawanna By the Sea — and give residents an exclusive preview of show cars. The last stop is Thousand Trails’ Seaside RV Resort, where about 50 car owners are treated to a barbecue, courtesy of the resort.

The event usually involves about 50 vehicles, about 90 percent of them out-of-towners, said Pedegana, the Senior Cruise director.

Pedegana got involved in the cruise about eight years ago by accident. Gary Diebolt mistook Pedegana’s car for the car leading the parade, and thanked him for helping out. Pedegana confessed it wasn’t him but volunteered to lead the tour in the future.

“It’s so much fun,” Pedegana said. “We have such a good time.”

Residents from the assisted living facilities come outside or watch from their windows as the cars cruise by.

“They’re reliving a part of their past again, because some of the cars in the parade are cars that either their parents owned, or their brother owned, or they owned, or they dated in. We’ve got all kinds of stories,” Pedegana said.

Nostalgia tends to be a leading role in the car show as a whole. Many people who participate do it “because you get to sit and talk to people,” Pedegana said.

“There is always interest in the cars,” he added. “There is interest in how the upholstery was done, why the engine was swapped, a variety of different things. Or they want to reminisce about cars they had when they were kids, and that’s a lot of times what happens.”



JEFF TER HARI/FOR SEASIDE SIGNAL

Cars lined up at the 2014 Wheels and Waves event.

Pedegana and his wife, Kathy, have participated in Wheels and Waves since 1999, when they purchased a 1961 Impala. On a trip to Redding, Calif., for a car show called Kool April Nites, Kathy spotted a 1937 Ford Slantback and was taken by the teardrop headlights. She said if they were to acquire another car, that was the one for her.

In 2000, Pedegana tracked down an identical model — bright red — and presented it to Kathy for Mother’s Day, complete with a license plate reading Her37. Kathy grew up with four brothers who always had cars and that’s why Pedegana bought the Ford for her. “I wanted her to have a car equal to or better than what her brothers had, because she never had an opportunity to have a car when she was young. That’s just the way it was in those days,” Pedegana said.

While “it’s her car,” he added, “I get to drive it to car shows and put gas in it, and clean it up.” Over the years, he’s touched up the car with new upholstery, wheels, bumpers and air conditioning.

## Passing along the hobby

For Travis Diebolt, involvement with car shows started because of his father. They would attend car shows as vendors, selling 1950s and 1960s nostalgia items. One summer, they hit up 72 events, he said.

“My dad joked around that we were like carnies,” Travis Diebolt said. “I’ve seen every state this side of the Mississippi, minus Hawaii, due to going to car shows and traveling with dad.”

When Gary Diebolt became the main promoter for Seaside’s car shows and Bike-Fest, Travis Diebolt helped out as his father’s “errand boy,” he said. Later, he contributed his artistic skills for T-shirts and promotional

items, even during the few years he lived in New Orleans.

Travis Diebolt remembers his father as very dedicated and meticulous when it came to promoting events.

“The night before the car show, he’d be out there counting parking spaces trying to figure out, ‘Where can I get one more car, comfortably?’” Travis Diebolt said. “He had a passion for Seaside. Anyone who knew him knew that. He was always for events that would bring people to Seaside to help out Seaside.”

Because Wheels and Waves is scheduled in September, the weekend after Labor Day, it is one of the last big shows for the season in the Pacific Northwest.

“It’s kind of the ‘end-of-the-summer’ type thing,” Travis Diebolt said.

When his father passed away, Travis Diebolt got his 1952 Chevy Sedan Delivery. He now shares the tradition of attending Wheels and Waves with his own 8-year-old son. They park the car along Broadway with the rest of the participants for the Show and Shine, put out chairs “and play tourists for the day,” Travis Diebolt said.

## Something for everyone

From Friday through midday Sunday, Broadway will be closed to traffic and transformed into a pedestrian mall from its intersection with Holladay Drive to the Turn-around. The public can walk freely and enjoy the “Show and Shine” from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. Cars will spill over to Columbia Street and the public parking lot by the Seaside Civic and Convention Center, as well.

Saturday is the main event, as several bands are scheduled to perform throughout the day. At 4 p.m., the signature “Downtown Street Cruise” car parade starts, allowing owners to show off their cars in action.

## Schedule of Events

### THURSDAY, SEPT. 10

Coastline Poker Run: Noon to 4 p.m.  
Senior Cruise: Starting at 4 p.m.

### FRIDAY, SEPT. 11

Show and Shine downtown: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Coastline Poker Run: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Poker Walk: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Vendor Alley on Edgewood Street: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Downtown Beach Party at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center: 5:30 to 8 p.m.

### SATURDAY, SEPT. 12

Show and Shine downtown: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Treasure Hunt: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Vendor Alley on Edgewood Street: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Downtown Beach Party at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center: 5:30 to 8 p.m.

### SUNDAY, SEPT. 13

Show and Shine downtown: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Vendor Alley on Edgewood Street: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Seaside Elks Lodge also is putting on the Elks Swap Meet to coincide with the car show.

The swap meet will be from 10 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at the Seaside Elks Lodge, 324 Avenue A. About 20 vendors will be selling memorabilia, clothing, car and motorcycle parts and other items. A few unique cars, such as a Stanley Steamer, will be on display.

The cost for vendors is \$60 per two days for an indoor space and \$50 per two days for an outdoor space. The revenue will go to the Elks’ scholarships for local seniors. The organization hopes to make the swap meet an annual event. There is no admission cost to attend the swap meet.

On Sunday, the Seaside association will hold an awards ceremony for car owners at the convention center. Pedegana said his wife once won an award titled “Car Crazy Chick.” They do not put much emphasis on the 35 plaques and trophies they have collected, though.

“If you enter a car show strictly to win hardware, you’re going to be disappointed. Because that’s not what it’s about,” he said. “It’s a nice thing to have happen, and nobody says it isn’t, but it’s not why you go.”

For more information about Wheels and Waves, contact the Seaside Downtown Development Association at (503) 717-1914.

## Seaside committee ponders fate of old church building

Church from Page 1A

“It’s wide, wide, wide open,” Larson said. “We’ve got a building — what do we do with it?”

The committee met for a preliminary meeting in early Aug. 5 at the building, at 1115 Broadway, and is meeting again this week to consider options for the property. Committee members see potential for the building, centrally located just west of the Seaside Public Library and across from Broadway Middle School, the Seaside Visitors Bureau and the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District pool.

“We have a lot of places we can feed into this,” Larson said.

## A space with potential

Committee members envision the space as a potential wedding hall, reunion center or performing arts room.

Darren Gooch of the park and recreation district said the former church could be “an extension” to the Bob Chisholm Community Center, which is currently used for public events.

Kristin Tschannen, a local business owner and member of Clatsop County’s Way to Wellville Strategic Advisory Council, said it might be best to look at existing gaps when it comes to city facilities. “What are the needs we’re not fulfilling?” she said.

## Identifying needs

Identifying those needs would be a good start to deciding where the old church building fits in, she



KATHERINE LACAZE/SEASIDE SIGNAL

A Seaside committee discussed the future of a former church building acquired by the city in September 2014.

said. One idea, Tschannen said, would be to “keep it almost like a blank canvas” that could be used for many events and purposes, perhaps an art gallery, after-school youth center, theater space or lecture hall.

Assistant Seaside Library Director Jon Burke asked if there was a budget for the project.

Not yet, Larson said.

A few maintenance projects will need to be done on the building, such as reconstructing the wheelchair ramp outside to meet Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, installing a new heating system, bathroom renovations and new flooring. Other projects, such as removing pews in the main hall, depend on the building’s future use. Burke estimated there was at least \$50,000 worth of work to make the building suitable for any purpose.

Once the building’s future is decided, then the city will determine how to manage and maintain the building.

## 100 years: Looking back, looking forward

School from Page 1A

district with its own board of directors. In November 1916, after several delays, the communities dedicated a recently finished \$35,000 Union High School in Seaside.

“Seaside can well feel proud of this excellent educational building, and those instrumental in the building of this valuable adjunct to this great resort can feel highly elated at the result of their labors,” the Seaside Signal wrote Nov. 16, 1916.

Another Signal article described the new school would be “bigger in its enrollment” and “better in its equipment, broadened till it stands second to none in the county.”

J.W. Branstator was the principal at the time. Under his direction, the district planned to expand its curriculum so the caliber of Union High School would equal that of Astoria High School.

Union High School was located directly west of the current facility, along what is now North Holladay Drive. Some time in the 1950s, the district constructed a new building that became the core of the current high school.

That facility was added on to in 1962, increasing the capacity of the school to 600 students. A gymnasium large enough for two basketball courts and folding bleachers was a highlight of the upgrade.

### GEARHART ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

Resurfacing, re-stripping and signage in parking lot  
Roofing projects that included the gym, computer lab/music room and rooms 15 through 18

### SEASIDE HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

Resurfacing, re-stripping



KATHERINE LACAZE/SEASIDE SIGNAL

A photo at the Seaside Museum depicts the Union High School built in 1916 that served students from Gearhart, Seaside and Cannon Beach.

Fast forward to now, as the school prepares for its 100th year of serving high school students in South County.

Roley, Assistant Principal Jeff Roberts and other staff members and teachers are preparing for the arrival of approximately 450 students for the 2015-16 school year.

Freshmen and new students will come the Tuesday after Labor Day, Sept. 8, for a program called Link Crew.

Junior and senior crew leaders will show the new students around the school and put on several team-building exercises to help them get acclimated before the remaining students arrive Sept. 9.

“It’s a great transition program,” Roley said. Incorporated about 20 years ago, she added, it is “one of the most significant changes for setting a positive school climate we’ve ever made.”

Personally, Roley is entering her 30th year as an educator, and she said the “excitement and anticipation has never diminished one bit for me.”

“I anxiously await the arrival of the staff and kids each year,” she said.

Each year, she anticipates leading the high school into the future. Educators are never satisfied, she said, because “they know there is growth we can continue to make.”

## Renovations around the district

and signage in parking lot (Scheduled for Saturday)

### BROADWAY MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Upgrading one boys’ and one girls’ restroom (In progress)  
One new roof pack (In progress)

### SEASIDE HIGH SCHOOL:

New section of sidewalk on east side  
New ramp on west side (portable buildings parking lot)  
Installed a platform lift for access to band/music/stage areas  
Installed platform lift for access to upper gym

Resurfacing, re-stripping and signage in parking lots

Upgrading boys’ and girls’ restrooms throughout building (In progress)

### DISTRICT OFFICE:

Repaving, resurfacing, re-stripping and signage for ADA parking area.