

WHEN BATMAN CAME TO GEARHART

Adam West a regular at the height of his fame

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

of personal appearances to promote his new Batman movie.”

According to the Internet Movie Database, Adam West was born William “Billy” West Anderson on Sept. 19, 1928, in Walla Walla, to parents Otto West Anderson, a farmer, and his wife, Audrey V. Speer, an opera singer. She was also known as Adele.

After a divorce Speer remarried. She took Billy and his younger brother, John, to Seattle.

At age 14, Billy attended Lakeside School, then went to Whitman College, where he got a degree in literature and psychology.

During his last year of college, he also married 17-year-old Billie Lou Yeager, the first of several marriages, before launching a career in film and show business.

In 1959 he moved to Hollywood and took the name Adam West. He appeared in the film “The Young Philadelphians,” and guest starred on television Westerns and crime dramas.

His mother, meanwhile, remarried once again and lived in Gearhart’s Ocean House on Pacific Way. Gearhart’s Jim Furnish remembered her as Adele DeSilva.

West was a constant visitor to Gearhart, Jeff Ter Har, a neighbor at the time, said.

“I was like 10 years old,” Ter Har said. “I

would be home and he would be at my parents house for cocktails and all my friends would come over and see me. ‘I have Batman at my house — Bruce Wayne without the mask.’ It was pretty cool for me.”

and laughing to this day, as he described his new, larger than life role, with all the fun-filled drama, campiness, and humor for the upcoming Batman TV series.”

Jean Ter Har shared that Adam West used to like to come over and read a book in her living room to “kind of hide out for a while,” she said.

West’s family became really good friends with his parents and his family. West’s brother, John, spent “a lot of time down here too, also his wife Carol,” Ter Har said. “A lot of the kids are still in the Portland area.”

Scott Bechtolt of Astoria still cherishes memories of when Batman came to Gearhart.

“We walked down a few houses and approached a house that looked like a lighthouse without the tower or a nautical fort,” Bechtolt said. “I thought that was cool ... then we knocked ... and ... Batman answered the door! Just like on T.V. ... Kapow!”



ter Anderson, 4, nephew of Bill Anderson, whose stage name is Adam West and at-known role is Batman, learns how to use the balance bar on the Gearhart Beach led by Scott Davis, who set up a whole collection of playground equipment made ftwood and beachcombs as part of the recreational project for children at the al church summer camp. Scott was recreation director for the camp.

“Batman” entertains Gearhart kids in August 1966.

SEASIDE SIGNAL/ FILE PHOTO

Wow! Bam! Pow! Shazam! Among Batman’s many stops around the planet in his role both as caped crusader — and without the cape — Bill Anderson, better known as Adam West, was a frequent visitor to Gearhart at the time of his greatest fame. The “Batman” TV show ran from 1966-68.

In late August 1966, shortly after release of his “Batman” feature, West arrived at the Clatsop County Airport accompanied by his children, Jonelle and Hunter, along with his brother and sister-in-law John and Carol Anderson and their two children, Winn and Peter. “The group spent Sunday and Monday visiting with Bill and John’s mother,” the Seaside Signal reported.

From Gearhart their plans were to go by chartered plane to Walla Walla, Washington, the Signal wrote in 1966. “Batman will then fly to New York City via Portland in Los Angeles, where he will make a number

Funds could help infrastructure

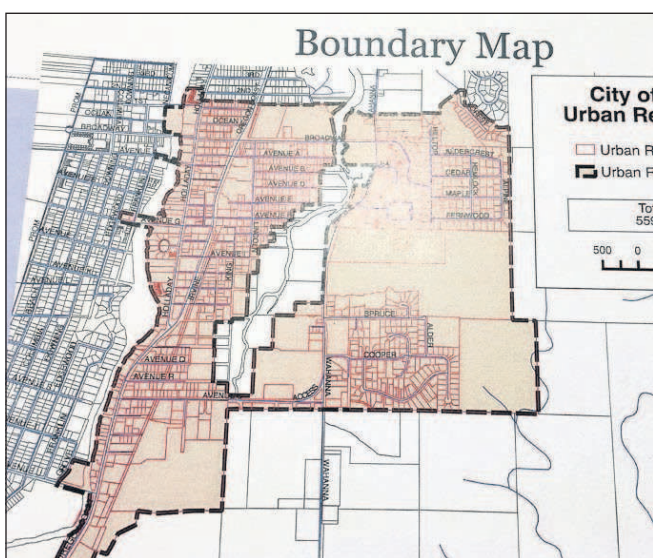
Renewal from Page 1A

Using tax increment financing, funding comes through increases in assessed values of local properties. As new development arrives and existing properties are improved, assessments rise and see property tax increases. Property taxes on the growth in assessed value in the urban renewal area are frozen and increases are allocated to the city’s urban renewal agency and not the taxing districts. Subsequent improvements can lead to higher home values and in turn higher assessments, ultimately generating more funds for the urban renewal district.

“As the assessed value grows in the district, only the urban renewal agencies can tax against that increase,” City Manager Mark Winstanley said. “The other agencies don’t get that.”

Southeast Seaside’s infrastructure goals, prepared in a May goal-setting session, include a pedestrian bike bridge, parks projects and upgrades to unincorporated properties in the area. Because part of the land is owned by the county, those areas would need to be annexed into the city. Annexation would require approval from the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners.

“Typically, counties are very supportive if you’re doing infrastructure,” Elaine



A boundary map of the Southeast Seaside Urban Renewal District.

Howard of Howard Consultants said. “And 90-something percent of your plan is infrastructure.”

Spending decisions can be changed as long as their cost does not exceed the debt the agency can incur, Howard said.

The city is limited to projects listed in the city’s urban renewal plan.

Members of the commission considered both 20- and 25-year scenarios.

A 20-year timeline would have yielded a maximum indebtedness of \$37.6 million; maximum indebtedness using a 25-year urban renewal district reaches \$62.4 million.

“It’s a marked difference

between 20 and 25 years,” Winstanley said.

Bridge upgrades by themselves could consume a large portion of the project fund, Howard said. “You’ve got those bridge repairs, which really may be a top priority,” Howard said. “But they’re \$26 million. That’s a lot of money. I’m not sure how much the city can add to that — but that’s what causes the angst in looking at the projects in the 20- to 25-year time frame.”

Urban renewal funds for school infrastructure of \$8.7 million are targeted to improve transportation, bring a sewer system to the new campus site, improve water

storage at the school site and acquire land as needed for right-of-way for streets and utilities.

“This is a situation where the school district is developing in a huge way, but by forming this urban renewal agency we have an opportunity to share in the costs rather than put it all on them,” Winstanley said. “For every dollar we don’t have to pay on public improvements that are a requirement for development, we can spend it on the kids. And that’s an opportunity for us.”

Up to \$7.5 million is targeted for building improvements and business assistance in the area, according to Howard.

Additions or changes to the plan can come at any time.

“This gives us the most flexibility in my mind, and the most options,” City Councilor Steve Wright said of the 25-year plan unanimously endorsed by Seaside Improvement Commission members.

City staff and consultants plan a briefing with the county Board of Commissioners on Tuesday and will seek county approval at the commission’s July 26 meeting in Astoria.

Seaside’s Planning Commission will review the plan for conformance to the city’s comprehensive plan, Howard said. The City Council will hold a formal hearing Aug. 14.

Seaside celebrates high school grads

Grads from Page 1A

Thaddeus Stapleton, originally from Washington state, is ready to leave the Oregon Coast. He will attend Southern Oregon University to study business administration. After completing his undergraduate degree, Stapleton plans on pursuing a master’s.

“I was a little unsure if I’d make it but I’m here now,” Stapleton said.

The valedictorians each gave an address highlighting the impact Seaside High School had on them, what they are looking forward to in the future, and advice for their fellow classmates.

Summer Spell’s speech acknowledged that the labels each one of them had do not define them anymore, whether that be a positive one like “successful” or a negative one like “lazy.”

Dania Nolzaco Luna, the first member of her family to graduate high school, said: “Whatever it is you do from here on out, you only get back what you put in.”

Caroline Kotson’s goal for her fellow classmates is to break away from their generation’s stereotype as entitled. Kotson said no matter what each student’s future will look like, “go out

and change the perception of our generation.”

After three valedictorian addresses, a slideshow of the graduates played. Students’ baby pictures and senior pictures along with group photos were shown.

Once the slide presentation completed, the fourth valedictorian gave his speech.

Carson Schulte said he spent his first three years at Seaside High going through the motions in fear of what others might think of him for standing out too much. However, at the beginning of his senior year, his father challenged him to try new things.

Schulte joined choir and other activities where he found a great support system. “If you have a dream, go out and chase it until you can’t chase it any longer,” he said.

Following Schulte, the Class of 2017 was awarded diplomas.

The final valedictorian address, given by Elizabeth Barnes, encompassed that people are unique and special in their own ways. “Don’t let anyone tell you you don’t matter,” Barnes said. “Never stop being who you are and seeking what you want.”

Managing
Hip & Knee Arthritis

JOIN US FOR A
SEMINAR



ADMISSION IS FREE

Presentation by

Dr. Michael Vessely
Orthopaedic Surgeon

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28th

5:30pm to 6:30pm

Holiday Inn Express

34 N. Holladay Drive. Seaside, OR

Light appetizers served



The Joint
Replacement
Institute
MCMINNVILLE OREGON

Please RSVP by contacting
Natalie.Reed@capellahealth.com
or (503) 435-6571