

# Getting ready for the next phase of refresh project

I walked into the building one morning a couple of weeks ago, letting the door close silently behind me. All of the lights were still off, but little beams of sunlight streamed in through the windows, illuminating little patches of the carpet. I stopped short for a moment in the quiet of the morning, reflecting on the many times I have done this in the past and all of the changes that have occurred since the first day I walked into this building almost 16 years ago.

I stared into the main hall for a few moments, in awe at what my Community Center Commission members have accomplished. Nine people from very different backgrounds who have come together to rally around a com-

**'THE BOB'**  
DARREN GOOCH



mon cause: to leave a lasting legacy for their community. Over the years we have lost a few members, notably Doris Snodgrass and more recently Greta Passetti. It always hurts to lose such great people and that little bit of community center history.

Invariably, as one door closes, another one opens and we have moved forward, adding some younger visionaries to our commission. Our current chairperson, Kristin Kabanuk, joined us

in 2017 and has brought with her a high level of enthusiasm and thoughtfulness. Jordan Viriding and Julia Weinberg are our most recent additions, filling vacancies left by Greta's passing and Lou Neubecker's departure from the commission several months ago. Lou was a driving force in our fundraising campaign for the Main Hall Refresh Project completed earlier this year.

As I stood reflecting on all that has passed, I thought too of all that is yet to come. The main hall refresh isn't a stopping point in the work to be done here at the center, but a step toward bigger and better things. The commission spent some time in a special work session this past spring, looking at a bigger picture and

establishing a next step for the Bob Chisholm Community Center. The main hall project was only Phase I of a much larger master plan.

Phase II, as envisioned by the commission members, encompasses the exterior of the building and addresses the much disdained stucco facade. Stucco on the coast, really? Our commissioners looked at many different design ideas and have developed some thoughts as to what materials will provide the best look and longevity to our fantastic facility.

As the next phase is rolled out over the next couple of years, commission members will look to community members for their support. Supporters who donate \$500 or more to any of our proj-

ects are forever memorialized with a bronze leaf on our donor tree. The tree is being designed by local artist Jeremy Furnish and slated to be installed sometime in September.

The Community Center Commission is always open to feedback and the community is invited to attend commission meetings, at 10 a.m. the first Tuesday of every month in the conference room at the Bob.

Every month, The BOB will bring you information on current events and items of interest here at the center. See you next month!

*Darren Gooch is the marketing and IT manager for the Sun-Set Empire Park and Recreation District.*

# A fearful dog is not the same thing as an aggressive dog

Two clarifications on behalf of fearful and feral dogs:

ONE. Fear does not equal aggression. Fear does not imply aggression. Fear does not even mean that aggression is likely. The internet is a Wild Wild West of bad advice and misinformation, including such horrifying declarations as the dangerously inaccurate claim that "fear is the first sign of aggression," which I recently stumbled upon via a social media link.

Ironically, the claim was part of an article about mistakes in dog training. I'm thankful I found it though, because it needed to be corrected. Because that kind of false statement too easily leads to needless euthanasia of perfectly innocent dogs.

So here's the truth: Fearful dogs are dogs who do not feel safe, who feel threatened. Aggressive dogs, on the other hand, are dogs who seek to eliminate competition for resources; they do this using a range of behaviors including warning, scaring, threatening, and/or attacking the opponent. It would make no sense for a fearful dog to behave in such ways, since a fearful dog seeks to avoid threats and dangers, not instigate them.

Dr. Roger Abrantes of Ethology Institute Cambridge explains beautifully that "Fear does not elicit aggressive behavior. It would have been a lethal strategy that natural selection would have eradicated swiftly once and for all. A cornered animal does not show aggressive behavior because it is fearful. It does so because its nat-

animal knows — or self-defend.

TWO. Feral dogs brought into human living situations should not be hand-fed. Sometimes well-meaning individuals, whether in sanctuaries, rescues, shelters or private homes may find themselves in possession of a feral dog whom they hope to "rehabilitate" into a fear-free companion animal.

**'FEARFUL DOGS ARE DOGS WHO DO NOT FEEL SAFE, WHO FEEL THREATENED. AGGRESSIVE DOGS ARE DOGS WHO SEEK TO ELIMINATE COMPETITION FOR RESOURCES.'**

ural responses to a fear-eliciting stimulus (pacifying, submission, flight) don't work."

In other words, when an animal is threatened by another, and that other ignores or rejects the animal's peaceful attempts to resolve the problem, it is the other who is, in reality, acting as an aggressor, and furthermore, that other's aggressive behavior in that moment pushes the animal to either shut down completely — accept death, for all the

A feral dog — or a "semi-feral" dog — suddenly placed in captivity is not going to be happy about that and will be afraid. A feral dog will want to stay as far away as possible from the humans holding him captive. Even reaching toward a terrified pet dog without first accomplishing a series of preparatory desensitization steps is a terrible idea that is likely to traumatize, so imagine how much worse to reach toward a terrified feral dog.



**CANINE CORNER**  
RAIN JORDAN & DAHLIA

But insistence upon hand-feeding a feral dog is exponentially worse because 1) the captive feral dog has no other option; 2) the captive feral dog knows that without food, he will die; 3) therefore, offering the captive feral dog food only from a human hand is attempting to force human contact upon the human-fearing dog by leveraging a powerful survival motivator (hunger) and basic survival need (food), which means that 4) the human is flooding the dog, thereby creating additional emotional, behavioral, and physical risks, including but not limited to medical problems, learned helplessness, and/or self-defensiveness that would be labeled "aggression" as explained above. There's also the risk of creating negative associations with food.

People who do this often claim that it encourages a "bond" between themselves and the dog, but that could not be further from

the truth. A fearful dog — which this dog will be in this situation — seeks to increase the distance between himself and what scares him. But the person shoving her hand in the dog's face is forcing a decrease in the distance between them. Having just lost his freedom, he now loses the small choices that remained — privacy perhaps, a few feet of air between himself and his captor, when to eat, where, and under what conditions.

I watched a video once of a young woman attempting to hand-feed a meal to a newly captive fearful/feral dog held in a "sanctuary." She had platinum white hair, a wide, white-toothed smile, and a huge ball of some white substance in her palm as she leaned toward the large, beige dog, pressing her insistent hand toward his mouth. The dog, housed in a metal-bars kennel inside a dark barn, shoved his spine hard into the farthest corner of his bars. There would be no food that night. Only fear and the cold floor's moist, thin strands of hay.

*Rain Jordan, CBCC-KA, KPA CTP, is a certified canine behavior and training professional. Visit her at www.expertcanine.com.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Select Paleck for WOE board

To the members of WOE:

I feel honored to introduce you to Erika Paleck, for those of you who don't know her. Erika is running for Position 5 on the Western Oregon Electric Company Board.

I have known Erika for more than 10 years and have known her to be very ethical, honest, informed and willing to learn. Her husband, Bob, had held the same position for nine years, and learning about WOE and the inner workings was a joint effort.

I met Erika while being a part of the Ford Family Leadership Cohort 2. Erika excelled during the confer-

ence and was a driving force to get the courtyard built next to the Learning Center (currently the Senior Center thrift store). She is also a leader in the Junior Salmon Action for the past 11-plus years. She is a member of the city Planning Commission, the Vernonia Health Center Board and other organizations. When she commits to be a part of the organizations, she researches and becomes very knowledgeable about what needs to be done and how to do it. She is always willing to listen to other points of view. You will notice that when she becomes involved in something it's a long-term commitment.

Erika Paleck is a genuine good person and will be a valuable asset to

the WOE Board. I urge you to vote for Erika Paleck for Position 5 on the WOE board.

**Carol Davis  
Vernonia**

### Erika Paleck asks for your vote

Long power outages are dangers to our health, livelihoods and quality of life. Western Oregon Electric Company Board of Directors' policy and priorities are crucial aspects of how this is managed. I am running for the District 5 board of director seat, but all members vote for all directors. My goals and values: continuing the ongoing upgrade of ser-

vice; my commitment to really hearing all members; fiscal responsibility and accountability and sustainability of the co-op.

My promise: to meet members directly at least three times a year in different locations in the district (all members welcome), bringing managers along. If we can't answer your concerns immediately, we'll take your contact information to get you solid answers.

I won't promise to magically drop the rates, but I'm open to new cost-effective technologies. Rates are primarily based on indispensable personnel and equipment — both maintenance and replacement. We still pay for recent massive storm/flood damage. FEMA payouts only

cover 75%, and only for locations declared disaster areas. The only source of income for the co-op is what we members pay.

I've been attending board meetings for the past year, as well as learning about America's electrical grid system, studying our own co-op's history, and reviewing cooperative law.

Please review my candidate statement that comes with the ballot mailed July 27 to see how I contribute to my community on an ongoing basis since 2004, and consider voting for me. I'll hit the ground running, doing my best to help us all thrive.

Thank you!

**Ericka Paleck  
Vernonia**

# Learn to monitor debris with COASST training

Seaside Signal

Learn how to survey for marine debris from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 17, and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 18, when the Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team will deliver two free training sessions in Astoria and Tillamook.

The COASST Marine Debris program is focused on the intersection of science, conservation and communities. Rather than simply identifying debris, the program characterizes it and measures its abundance in particular zones of the beach.

Through an interactive, hands-on workshop, trainees will learn how to collect data that speaks directly to the source and transport pathways of debris, as well as to the potential harm to people, wildlife and local coastal ecosystems. The COASST training provides participants with the tools to monitor for potential changes in the marine environment and promote stewardship of local marine resources.

COASST is a citizen science project of the University of Washington in partnership with state, tribal and



**A COASST volunteer next to tangled rope found on a marine debris survey.**

federal agencies, environmental organizations and community groups. By collaborating with citizens, natural resource management

agencies and environmental organizations, COASST works to translate long-term monitoring into effec-

tive marine conservation solutions. Nearly 1,000 volunteers survey beaches in Washington, Oregon, California and Alaska.

The training session on Aug. 17 is at Trawler Hall, Clatsop Community College, 1651 Lexington Ave.

in Astoria; and on the Aug. 28 at Port of Tillamook Bay, 4000 Blimp Blvd., Suite 100.

Reserve a spot for either training by calling 206-221-6893 or emailing coasst@uw.edu. For more information on COASST visit coasst.org.

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