

## SignalViewpoints

# Looking ahead, partnership, perseverance, planning

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It's hard to believe that another year is nearly complete. While 2021 measured the same span of 365 days, as most traditional years, it sure did seem like a very long year!

For the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District, this was a year to remember. We are proud of our ability to continue to provide high quality recreation programs to our residents and guests.

At a time when the pandemic continues to threaten our health, safety, and ability to have a "normal" year, we endured with growth, new developments and dedication.

While reflecting on the year past, there were five words that stood out and will echo in my mind as we move forward to 2022: opportunity, adaptation, partnership, perseverance, and planning.

**Opportunity:** 2021 will hold a special place in the hearts of the district and our community as the year when our community acquired the property formerly known as Broadway Middle School.

In the months since that acquisition the building has been repurposed for community use including child care, preschool and utilizing the gymnasiums and been rebranded as the Sunset Recreation Center.

We have been able to grant raise over \$125,000 for programs and the facility at the SRC and, most importantly, the district has preserved a valuable community asset for the betterment of our residents and guests.



R.J. Marx

The park district moved youth programs into the Sunset Recreation Center in June.

**Adaptation:** We hoped for the pandemic to be shorter and less impactful, but the reality is that we, like most others, are still adapting to what has now become normal. Now almost two years in, there have been changes required to just about every facet of our operations and facilities.

The real highlight though is that we have been able to transition, respond, and continue to serve our community. Aquatic program participation was as strong as ever in the last year with fitness classes, swim lessons and lap-swim showing upticks in demand.

**Partnership:** Our agency has an amazing tradition of partnership and that has continued with too many partners to name here. I am most proud of our collaboration with the city of Seaside to celebrate the

Prom Centennial Celebration with new special events like the 100K relay race and the Prom chalk art contest and our partnership with local youth sport providers to keep kids active and healthy. We have also partnered with local nonprofits to help provide support for the homeless at a local warming shelter. The district partners with our nonprofit affiliate, the Sunset Park and Rec Foundation by providing \$24,500 to families in our community.

**Perseverance:** Despite the obstacles and challenges facing us, staff, board members, volunteers as well as our entire community have stood tall. I am so incredibly pleased to work with a team of individuals dedicated to serving our community and inspiring you to PLAY!

**Planning:** While not necessarily the



Katherine Lacaze

Eighth-graders Mya Feeny and Liliana Miller, with Seaside Middle School's Builders Club, volunteered to run games at Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District's Fall Fun Fest on Oct. 23.

most exciting, the district has worked hard this year to plan for the future. We recently completed a six-month study to help us understand the full cost of our services and prioritize how to serve our community better. We also are nearing the end of a very thorough strategic planning process to determine the best uses for the Sunset Recreation Center property moving forward.

We hope you had a great 2021 and encourage you to come visit us soon. Check out our annual report, to be released early in 2022 for more information on what we might be up to. I know you are sure to enjoy our new family themed event, "A Knight Out Dance" in March and the return of our foundation fundraiser Sip and Savor (formerly "A Sweet Affaire") in May.

We are excited about the year ahead and look forward to all that will come in 2022! Thank you for your continued support and patronage and we wish you and yours the best this holiday season.

## Santa and friends



R.J. Marx

Santa with "Trigger" and "Mia" at By the Way in Gearhart.

### NEWS NOTES

#### Writers Read series issues call for submissions

The NW Authors Series is sponsoring the fourth Annual Writers Read celebration. The committee is calling writers to submit their original works. All writers and all ages can participate. This year's theme is "Recovery?"

Writers are encouraged to use the theme however they wish to interpret it.

A panel of volunteer judges will select 10-12 works to be read by their authors during the celebration. The celebration will be held via Zoom on March 5. Selected writers will also need access to Zoom.

All written formats will be considered (essay, story, poetry, prose, etc.) Limit 3 entries per author, 600- word maximum per entry. Submissions will be accepted by email (info@cannonbeachlibrary.org) or by mail (P.O. Box 486 Cannon Beach, OR., 97110), though email is preferred. Submissions should be in word or pdf format and include a cover letter with the writer's name, email and phone number. Do not include your name or contact information on the entry document — authors are anonymous during the judging process. Deadline for submissions is Jan. 24.

#### Groups team to provide giving tree

This holiday season the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District partnered with the Seaside Head Start Program and the Northwest Regional Education Service District to organize a giving tree for children in need.

The tree was located at Sunset Pool and community members selected ornaments and purchased gifts for kids, including clothing, shoes, winter coats, diapers and wipes, toys and books.

Twenty-two of the children were associated with the Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education programs of the Northwest Regional Education Service District in the Sunset Recreation Center. The EI program provides services and supports to eligible children up to 3 years of age. The program also helps families develop the skills they need to help their children learn and grow.

The early childhood program offers special education services to children 3 to 5 years of age. Services include specially designed instruction and related services such as physical, occupational, or speech and language therapy.

#### Seaside Elks award scholarships

Everett Rollins and Ila Bowles were each awarded \$1,000 scholarships by the Seaside Elks Lodge.

As winners of the "Most Valuable Student" local scholarship, these Seaside High School seniors' applications have been forwarded to the Oregon State Elks Association Northwest District competition. Rollins and Bowles will compete against students sponsored by Elks Lodges in St. Helens, Astoria, Tillamook, Lincoln City, Newport, Toledo and Florence. for further awards.

Exalted Ruler, Rodney Roberts, said that these scholarships are awarded for superior scholastic achievement as well as outstanding qualities of citizenship and leadership, using criteria from the Elks National Foundation.



Ila Bowles

Everett Rollins

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

#### A holiday wish from a class of '63 alum

Holiday wishes to all. I may have left my gall bladder in St. Louis, Missouri, but my heart and soul belong to Seaside.

So many from the class of '63 are still there, doing amazing work to preserve and promote Seaside. Ky Weed, Gordon Smith Crayton Morris, Don and Janey Olson, Joe and Verna Dotson, Karl Marlantes, Jerry Alto ... the list goes on.

My wish for Seaside and all who live there is that peace will be yours in 2022.

Audrey (Powell) Haynes  
Bickleton, Washington

### PUBLIC MEETINGS

Contact local agencies for latest meeting information and attendance guidelines.

**MONDAY, JAN. 10**

Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., 989 Broadway.

**TUESDAY, JAN. 18**

Seaside School District, 6 p.m., <https://www.seaside.k12.or.us/>

**MONDAY, JAN. 24**

Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., 989 Broadway.

**TUESDAY, JAN. 18**

Seaside School District, 6 p.m.,

<https://www.seaside.k12.or.us/>

**MONDAY, JAN. 25**

Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District Board of Directors, 5:15 p.m., 1225 Ave. A.

**MONDAY, FEB. 14**

Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., 989 Broadway.

**TUESDAY, FEB. 15**

Seaside School District, 6 p.m., <https://www.seaside.k12.or.us/>

Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District, 5:15 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center.



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