

NEWS NOTES

Chalk art contest returns

In celebration of Seaside's historic Prom, the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District hosts their second annual chalk art contest. The event is open to artists of all ages and skill levels.

Portland artists Bev Cordova and May Wallace will offer a class in chalk on July 29 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Sunset Recreation Center, providing contestants with a chance to learn how to create chalk art using pastels.

On July 30, artists will create art on the Prom near the Turnaround starting at 9 a.m., with judging and an awards ceremony with prizes that afternoon.

The entrance fee for the class and contest is \$35 and includes a set of pastels and other supplies to create chalk art on the Prom. To register, visit sunsetempire.com or call 503-738-3311.

There is also a need for volunteers for this event. Email Melissa Ousley at mousley@sunsetempire.com.

Open house planned on Seaside parks

An open house on Seaside parks is planned for Aug. 4 at the Bob Chisholm Community Center.

The event is scheduled from 5 to 7 p.m.

The city is in the midst of updating the parks master plan.

People are also invited to complete a community survey on parks at www.surveymonkey.com/r/parksseaside

'Back to Broadway' at summer camp

The Coaster Theatre Playhouse will offer Coaster Theatre Kidz Summer Camp: "Back To Broadway" from Aug. 15 to Aug. 19.

Coaster Theatre Kidz Camp focuses on three common aspects of theater arts: acting, singing and dancing. In addition to improving confidence and creativity, campers are exposed to teamwork, respect and unlimited imagination while creating a show and characters of their own.

This year's theme is "Back to Broadway." Each camper will develop a Broadway-bound character through song, dance and dialogue during the weeklong camp.

Camp will be from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Aug. 15 through Aug. 19. A community performance is planned



Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District

Chalk art returns to the Prom July 30.

Aug. 19 at 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. in the theater.

The Coaster Theatre Kidz Camp is available to students ages 8 through 12 or grades three through six. This year's \$200 tuition is covered by the city of Cannon Beach's community services grant.

Application forms for this summer's camp are on the theater's website at coastertheatre.com/shows/2022summercamp.

Auditions for 'Gramercy Ghost'

Auditions for the Coaster Theatre Playhouse's fall production of "Gramercy Ghost" will be at 6:30 p.m. July 25 and July 26 in the theater.

Nine actors are needed to fill the roles in this ghostly romantic comedy. "Gramercy Ghost" is directed by Deanna Duplechain.

Rehearsals begin in August. The

show runs weekends Sept. 30 through Oct. 29 for 10 performances.

Cannon Beach Cottage and Garden Tour set for September

The Cannon Beach Cottage and Garden Tour will take place Sept. 10 from noon to 5 p.m.

Tickets for day of tour are \$40, featuring over a dozen charming cottages. The tour, now in its 19th year, benefits the Cannon Beach History Center & Museum.

Attend the opening night benefit Sept. 9 from 5:30 to 8 p.m., admission by donation with silent auction. Garden tea is on Sept. 11 at 11 a.m. with Beaver Tails and Treasure Trails lecture by Doug Kenck-Crispin. Tickets for tea and lecture are \$25.

For more information, visit www.cbhistory.org or call 503-436-9301.

Levy: Extension to retain training officer position

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from 34 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value to 33 cents per \$1,000.

If passed in November, Nov. 8, the new levy would take effect in November 2023.

The current four-story training tower was built in the early 1990s, Daniels said, and has major deterioration.

The new metal tower would enable controlled burns, elevator rescues and ladder truck training.

"We used to burn some acquired structures when people gave us their homes that they didn't want anymore and they were building something else," Daniels said.

With homes closer together and legal aspects from potential asbestos and hazardous materials, a tower could provide a controlled, safer environment, Daniels said. "It's really not that easy, and we don't want to smoke everybody out when we're doing it," he said.

The new tower would provide rooms for fire training and a place to practice ladder truck operations, preventing the need to block off downtown loca-

tions for high-rise exercises, he said. "Something you may not know is we do a lot of elevator rescues for such a small city," he said. "They'll have a shaft in there that we can do elevator rescues."

The levy would also fund a replacement for the 2004 tender apparatus, which is seeing increasing maintenance, Daniels said. The new truck would carry 1,800 gallons of water, hose lines and drive on one axle to maximize storage space at the fire station.

The fire department has six full-time employees — a chief, two division chiefs and three firefighters — and about 30 volunteers.

The levy is essential for the department to maintain its national insurance rating, currently among the lowest homeowner insurance ratings in the region, City Manager Mark Winstanley said in June.

The rating is a score provided to fire departments and insurance companies by the Insurance Services Office, which establishes rating information.

"When your ISO rating goes up, everybody's fire insurance goes up right along with it," Winstanley said. "In other words,

people would end up paying one way or the other. We think it's a much better approach to have a well-trained, well-equipped fire department with a low ISO rating than it is to have an agency that is more challenged with a higher ISO rating. Once you have it, you really don't want to give it up and it can go away very quickly."

City councilors unanimously voted to put the measure on the November ballot.

"This is the greatest investment the property owners and Seaside can make and it's been proven over the years and the fact that we have a pretty much volunteer-run department," Mayor Jay Barber said. "Thirty-three cents per \$1,000 value is a bargain."

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Ordinance: City Council to consider policy changes

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were issued to people who have been homeless here for more than a year.

Many of the pre-ordinance problems remain, with unsheltered people taking refuge in doorways or alleyways.

The current hours — 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. — may work in summer months, but in the winter, with shortened daylight hours, the later entrance times may be unworkable. He suggested a possibility of a five-night stay before campers are required to move their belongings.

"My hope is that they will take this small step in participating in what the community is offering them," Knoch said. "They will feel more welcomed and part of our community, perhaps a way to even be more open to other resources to help them with long-term housing options. When I see that happening, I'll know that our efforts are working."

On a day-to-day basis, garbage pickup is a top concern, Public Works Director Dale McDowell said.

"In one week, a 3-yard garbage can was filled and there's only an RV and a trailer, and one tent camper," he said. "How did they bring that much stuff to fill 3 yards? We had a gentleman set up last Friday with a cardboard shelter inside the recycle center because he wanted to get out of the sun but didn't want to miss out on the bottle return."

City Councilor Tita Montero also advocated extending the length of campers' overnight stays.

"It's not the number of hours in the day. It's the number of times you have to tear down your tent," Montero said. "You

have to put your tent up. It's driving rain, with storms in the winter. It's how many days out of the week do you have to move your house. At this point, I would rather give people the benefit of the doubt and expect that they will behave well."

More should be done to assist those in need, including people needing referrals and assistance, Montero said.

"I tried to help some people through CCA (Clatsop Community Action) getting housing," she said. "I was told, flat out, there is no housing — and maybe we'll come in two weeks to help with an intake. I haven't been there personally, but I've been walking along the path with some of these people. And if I couldn't get them help, with my influence, what kind of help do you think they can get for themselves?"

Mayor Jay Barber said developments are in sight to meet the needs of the homeless, including partnerships with Helping Hands Reentry Outreach Centers and Clatsop Community Action to add hours and staff to the warming center on South Roosevelt Drive.

The county may have land in Seaside that could be used for camping or longtime parking, he added, and he invited local churches and non-profit organizations to consider overnight RV parking.

"I'm here tonight to challenge the leaders of those congregations to see an opportunity to step up and minister to people like the Catholic Church has done through the Sunday supper," he said.

Policy changes will be on the agenda at the City Council's July 25 meeting, Assistant City Manager Jon Rahl said.

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