



## Gateway to the Dunes

# CITY OF REEDSPORT NEWSLETTER

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### Rainbow Plaza redevelopment plan

A redevelopment concept plan for Rainbow Plaza in Old Town was unanimously approved by the Reedsport City Council on August 2, 2010. The design plan was completed by the Eugene landscape architecture firm *Cameron McCarthy Gilbert and Scheibe*. Approval of the plan was a culmination of a year's worth of work by City staff and the Reedsport community. This plan will serve as the basis for future redevelopment and improvements to the plaza.

Rainbow Plaza is located within the Reedsport Urban Renewal District, and improvements to the plaza are cited as one of the project objectives of the district. The plaza was once the hub of the community and it is currently very visible to visitors entering and leaving the community on Highway 38 and to and from the Discovery Center. Therefore, redeveloping the plaza will beautify the City and bring Reedsport back to its roots by improving a space for public gatherings and festivals, such as the Chainsaw Championship and Tsalila, at the town's historic hub. It will continue to function as overflow parking for trucks, RV's and boat trailers.

The City invited community members to a design workshop with Matt Scheibe and Matt Koehler of CMG&S landscape architects. The outcome of the community workshop was a list of assets and liabilities of the site, alternative plans, drawings and ideas for the design of the site, and a prioritized list of desired components and uses for the site.

After gathering community input at several meetings and submitting several design drafts, the design team was able to create a concept plan that has been embraced by most members of the community.



### Welcome to the first City of Reedsport newsletter!

Through the gracious efforts of Sherri Elliot, owner of the Copy Cat, you are probably finding this newsletter as an insert inside the Coffee Break Daily News. Current and future editions will be available on the City's website at [www.cityofreedsport.org](http://www.cityofreedsport.org), the Reedsport Branch Library, the Reedsport City Hall, and in one of Reedsport's outstanding business establishments. The Newsletter will be published quarterly with the next edition coming out in December, 2010. The Reedsport City Council and the employees of the City of Reedsport are dedicated to providing quality services to this community. This newsletter is one of our ongoing efforts to do just that. As you will see, the Newsletter will provide us with an opportunity to keep the public informed on important issues and meeting schedules. I am very proud of this community and honored to serve as your mayor. We are a special group that pulls together for the common good. It is my hope that this newsletter will be a catalyst for that ongoing "teamwork" and a means of keeping the public "in the loop" about city issues and events. I hope you enjoy the Newsletter and we invite your comments. - Keith Tymchuk, Mayor

### Imagine a downtown without sandbags

As any downtown property owner will tell you, we all hold our breath when heavy winter rains come. That's because the City's current downtown stormwater system does not have the capacity to move the large amounts of rain produced by a heavy downpour in a short period of time, which often results in flooding. The downtown area's stormwater infrastructure has reached the end of its life. The diameter of the pipes is too small to properly collect and move the water that accumulates during heavy rain events. Furthermore, the Elm Street Pump Station is overloaded and antiquated.

In July of 2007, the City Council approved the Reedsport Urban Renewal District Plan, a top priority of which was to complete storm drain improvements to assure a flood free downtown and riverfront area by 2015. In April of 2009, the public participated in a two hour Main Street workshop which included an assessment of downtown Reedsport's current strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and opportunities. A major weakness listed was flooding and infrastructure needs in the downtown. Eliminating the potential for flooding in the downtown is a community-wide priority with both quality of life and economic development implications. The Reedsport City Council shares this top priority and as such, on September 14, 2009, approved the Downtown Stormwater Improvements Project.

When completed, the project will redirect a portion of existing stormwater to a pipe under 4<sup>th</sup> Street, northwest to East Railroad Avenue, northeast to a new pump station, and then discharged into the Umpqua River. The remaining stormwater from the basin would continue to be routed to a pipe under Winchester Avenue and then east to the Elm Street Pump station and out to the Umpqua River. Essentially, the downtown basin would be divided into two collection basins - north and south, rather than the one that currently exists.

After the City Council approved the project on September 14, 2009, City staff submitted a loan application to United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Division for funding of the estimated \$1.9 million needed to complete the project. City staff has since then worked with USDA on follow up information required by USDA. The City has completed a required environmental report and a required engineering report. To date, the City has completed all of the USDA Rural Development requirements and is now waiting for loan approval. Once the City receives approval, the needed downtown stormwater improvements can begin. Funding of the loan payments could come from a slight increase to monthly stormwater fees (currently at \$3.00 per household) or from funds generated from the Urban Renewal District or from a combination of the two. City staff anticipates construction on the project beginning in late spring 2011.

Check us out online at [www.cityofreedsport.org](http://www.cityofreedsport.org)

## Champion Park has gone to the dogs



At the December, 2009 Reedsport City Council meeting, Champion Park was designated an off-leash dog park by the City Council. This was recommended by the City's Parks & Beautification Committee as a way to utilize Champion Park and support the many dog owners living in Reedsport and the many visitors we have who are traveling with their dogs. City staff installed three pet waste stations with bags and garbage cans and signs regarding the rules of the off-leash area. The old softball field fencing was removed, providing about 7 unfenced acres for dogs to run and play.

To further enhance the park, a small area (60' by 100') has been fenced off for use by small dogs who may be intimidated by the larger dogs using the park or who are not quite ready to be off-leash in the larger unfenced area. A bench has been placed within this enclosure for dog owners to use while their dogs play. The restrooms at Champion Park have also been reopened for convenience of the park users.

For the safety and enjoyment of everyone, it is important that your dog plays well with other dogs and gets along with other people before letting him or her off-leash. Keeping your canine friend up on his or her vaccinations is especially important since it will be interacting with other dogs. Also, please be sure to clean up after your dog. For safety reasons, puppies younger than four months and female dogs in heat are not allowed off-leash.

It's hoped that by having this official off-leash area for dogs within the City, citizens will have an opportunity to exercise and play with their canine companions in a safe environment without disturbing others. Please remember that within the rest of Reedsport's city limits, you are required to prevent your dog from running at large on anyone else's property. This requirement is commonly called a "leash law". Also, you should not let your dog trespass on others' private property even if they're on a leash.

Champion Park can be accessed from the parking lot of the Oregon Dunes/Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center or from Juniper Street on the west side of Highway 101.

## Going on at the Senior Center

Located at 460 Winchester Ave., the Lower Umpqua Senior Center is open daily, Monday through Friday until at least 3:00pm. The building is also available for rent on evenings and weekends (contact Caryn Kaufmann at 541-271-3603 for more information).

Many activities are offered at the Senior Center. The Center is fully equipped with a commercial kitchen and full dining/common area. No alcohol is allowed at the site.

Douglas County Health and Social Services provides a nutritious meal at noon on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Seniors age 60 and older and their spouses can donate whatever they can afford for their meals. If they have no money to donate they will still be served a meal. The Center asks and would appreciate if guests who are not seniors age 60 and older to donate the full cost of the meal which is \$7.66. Entertainment or informational sessions are often offered during, or immediately following, the meal.

Other available activities include pool, card games, art and ceramic classes, hearing aid and blood pressure checks, and discounted foot care. Recently, a large flat screen tele-

vision/DVD/VHS center was installed and donated movies are available for viewing. Every Wednesday at 3:00 pm is Bingo! The more people in attendance, the more money you have a chance to win.

Many exciting things are happening at the Center as a result of many generous donations from the community and local grants. Recently, the Reedsport High School class of 1970 donated \$1,000 that will be used to partner with the City of Reedsport to put a fresh coat of paint on the exterior of the building. Also, a \$5,000 grant was received from the Coquille Indian Tribal Foundation to replace the flooring in the kitchen. Local grants from the C. Giles Hunt Foundation and the Lower Umpqua United Way contribute annually to the functioning of the Center. A portion of the proceeds from an annual BBQ cook off event sponsored by the Moose Lodge, the Eagles Lodge, and the Tides Inn has also been generously donated to the Center during the past few years.

Drop by the Center and see what your local support has provided for seniors in our area. Volunteer greeters are available to answer any questions you may have or you may call 541-271-4884 between the hours of 9:00am and 3:00pm.

## It's about safety!

Pedestrian safety is a common community safety concern and the applicable laws are typically the subject of confusion.

Oregon law requires pedestrians to use crosswalks where available. In the absence of a crosswalk pedestrians must cross roadways at the nearest intersection. Pedestrians are required to remain off of the roadway until they can enter without creating an immediate hazard to motorists.

Motorists are required to yield to pedestrians that have entered the roadway. A good basic rule for motorists is to remain stopped prior to the crosswalk until the pedestrian has cleared the lane in which your vehicle is traveling or turning and at least the next lane, before you proceed; **it's your lane plus the next lane.**

### Remember:

- Under Oregon law there is a crosswalk at every intersection.
- Do not pass a vehicle stopped at a crosswalk. A stopped car may be a clue that a pedestrian is crossing. When stopping for a crosswalk on a multi-lane road like Highway 101, you should stop about 30 feet before the crosswalk so you don't block visibility to a driver in the inside lane.

- When stopping at an intersection, motorists are required to stop their vehicle before the crosswalk line.
- Watch for pedestrians, especially children, when exiting driveways, backing out of parking spaces, and exiting parking lots. Pedestrians also have the right-of-way on sidewalks.

The Reedsport Police Department has pamphlets regarding this subject as well as:

- Child safety seat/belt tips and requirements
- Teen driving laws (Titled: Get them started on the right road)
- The Oregon Parent Guide to Teen Driving
- Child learning guide on pedestrian safety (Titled: What do Safe Walkers do?)
- Child coloring book on safety (Titled: 10 Safety steps for traveling in your community)
- Bicycle safety (Titled: Say, you're not from this planet are you? AND From A to Z by bike)

All safety pamphlets are free to the public and available at the Police Department seven days a week.

# REEDSPORT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, from 10am to 2pm at Zack Turner Station, 2680 Frontage Road



## COME ON BY...

- Meet your local firefighters
- Take a tour of the fire station
- Ride in a fire truck
- See the 1998 Pierce Fire Truck on display
- Watch repelling techniques demonstrated by the firefighters throughout the event
- And don't miss the "Jaws of Life" demonstration at noon

The Fire Chiefs office (Zack Turner Station) is open Monday-Friday, 8am to noon. Stop by for a cup of coffee, take a tour, and talk to our firefighters.

**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK: OCTOBER 4-8. Firefighters will be teaching local elementary school children about fire safety.**

Funding through a Douglas County grant has been utilized to purchase a communication facility behind the fire station. Specialized communication equipment has been installed inside giving local, county, state and federal emergency agencies the ability to communicate during a major emergency or disaster



## Treating wastewater is city business

Your wastewater treatment plant upgrade and expansion project is nearly complete. The 10 year project was required by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) since the plant had previously not been meeting discharge limits which are set by DEQ. Further, the wastewater treatment and collection system was facing capacity problems during the wet weather season since inflow and infiltration (I and I) of stormwater was occurring, which would overwhelm the system. As a result, DEQ issued the City a Notice of Permit Violation and the City was required to enter into a Mutual Agreement and Order (MAO) with DEQ to correct the problems causing the violations. DEQ also limited the number of new sewer connections that could be constructed.

It has been a long process, but one well worth the effort. The facility has been designed and constructed to meet the needs of Reedsport, Gardiner, and the surrounding area for many years.

## Help keep storm drains clear

With fall and the rainy season quickly approaching, the Public Works Department would like to remind residents to not blow or rake their leaves and yard debris into the street since it eventually makes its way to the storm drains. Once to the storm drains, the debris can plug the drain, which can lead to flooding.

Please assist by bagging your yard waste and debris and hauling it to our local transfer site. Or better yet, start a compost pile. According to the US Environmental Protection Agency, the amount of garbage generated annually in the United States is over 200 million tons! Thanks to natural decomposition, food scraps and yard waste can be recycled at home. But, too much of our biodegradable, organic garbage just ends up in the landfill. Composting is simple. Returning these organic materials to the soil perpetuates natural biological cycles and is an ecologically sensible means of using organic wastes. Composting provides for richer garden soil, improves the texture and aeration, and increases the soil's ability to retain water, decreasing erosion. For more information on composting, visit <http://www.recyclepower.org>.

The Public Works Department will continue working to keep storm drains clear to prevent flooding. Homeowners and residents need to be aware of problems as they develop by assisting the Public Works Department by clearing debris from stormwater drains to allow water to drain properly. If after clearing the debris the water still does not drain, please contact the City Shop at 271-2379 or City Hall at 271-3603 as there may be a more serious issue that needs attention.

## News of Discovery

### WORKING WEATHER STATION

If you haven't stopped by the Discovery Center lately, then you are in for a surprise. A new 'Working Weather Station' has been installed in the 'Pathways to Discovery' exhibit area and is busy collecting weather data from Reedsport. This installation was made possible by Ms. Barringer, who bequeathed \$10,000 to the Center, along with donations to the Umpqua Discovery Center Treasure Chest.

A webcam, that overlooks the Center's boardwalk and the Umpqua River, has also been installed and is available on the Center's website [www.umpquadiscoverycenter.com](http://www.umpquadiscoverycenter.com), along with the weather data.

NOAA has shown great interest in using the data collected, as there are no weather stations from this area. We are also encouraging the news media to use the information and webcam in their newscasts.

### REEDSPORT HISTORY - THE CITY ON STILTS 1912-1930

The Umpqua Discovery Center is proud to announce that the "REEDSPORT HISTORY-THE CITY ON STILTS - 1912-1930" video is now available. The video includes photos, information, and oral histories from area residents. The production of the video was made possible through grants obtained by the UDC Treasure Chest with proceeds to continue the educational programming and exhibits at the Center. The DVD sells for \$12.95 and is also available for

viewing in the Center's Theater.

### PHOTO REQUEST - REEDSPORT 1940'S & EARLIER

The Umpqua Discovery Center is in the process of publishing a Reedsport History photo book. We need your help in locating Reedsport photos from the 1940's and earlier. Bring your photos to the Center, along with the information about the photo, and it may be published in the book. If requested, your photo can be scanned and returned.

### TSALILA Update

The Tsalila (sa-lee-la) Partnership is busy preparing for the 14th annual *Tsalila Education Days* as a way to raise childrens awareness of the natural resources and cultural heritage of the central coast area. Over 2,000 students and adults

will visit Rainbow Plaza and the Discovery Center on Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, & 23<sup>rd</sup>, and learn a wealth of information from the 'Water Cycle', 'Pioneer Living', & 'Native Tools', plus much more.

We are sad to announce that the traditional weekend festival, that is open to the public, will not be held this year. Look for it to come back in the future with new and exciting changes.

When you have friends and relatives in town, remember to bring them to the Discovery Center. We have wonderful programs to offer schools and groups, along with rental space. Memberships make a great gift that gives all year long and is a great way to show your support.

Check us out online at [www.cityofreedsport.org](http://www.cityofreedsport.org)

## Fats, oils, and grease, oh my!

The City of Reedsport is seeking your help in reducing the fats and greases being dumped down the drain. Grease blockages in sewer pipes are common causes of sewer overflows and backups and grease seriously hinders the operation of waste water pumping stations and the waste water treatment plant, which affects everyone.

Grease is a by-product of cooking that comes from meats, oils, shortening, butter, margarine, food scraps, sauces, and dairy products. You can easily help yourself, your neighborhood, waste water pumping stations, and the waste water treatment plant by observing some easy to follow recommendations:

1. Pour greases into cans or other receptacles and dispose of them in the trash.
2. Never pour grease down sinks or toilets.
3. Use basket strainers in sinks to catch food scraps.

The City Wastewater Crew routinely clean, flush, and televisc all the sewer lines in the City on an annual basis. This is to ensure that not only does sewage keep running down hill, but that grease blockages do not have a chance to form and back sewage up into anyone's home or business.

Now that the upgraded sewage treatment plant is operational, we are asking for your help to limit the amount of fats, oils, and greases (FOG) that enters the sewer system. By striving to be more aware and proactive about limiting FOG in our drains and sewers, we can reduce the frequency of expensive repairs and at the same time improve our environment.

### CONTACT US

#### POLICE DEPARTMENT (541) 271-2109

Business Hours: 24 hours/day, 7 days /week  
Police Chief-Mark Fandrey

#### CITY HALL OFFICE (541) 271-3603

Business Hours: Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm  
City Manager-Scott Somers  
City Recorder-Deanna Schafer  
Finance Director-Vera Koch  
Public Works Superintendent-Floyd Dollar

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT (541) 271-2423

Business Hours: 8am to 12pm  
Fire Chief-Tom Anderson

#### UMPQUA DISCOVERY CTR (541) 271-4816

Business Hours:  
Summer(6/1-9/30) 9am- 5pm  
Winter(10/1-5/31) 10am-4pm  
UDC Director-Diane Novak

### Calendar of Events

Sept 9	Th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic Safety Meeting at 1:30 pm (Conference Rm)</li> <li>• Planning Commission Meeting at 7:00pm (City Council Chambers)</li> </ul>
Sept 13	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City Council Meeting at 7:00pm (City Council Chambers)</li> </ul>
Sept 22	W	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks and Beautification Committee Meeting at 3:00 pm (Conference Rm)</li> </ul>
Sept 21-23	Tu-Th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tsalila Education Days (Rainbow Plaza and UDC)</li> </ul>
Sept 25	Sat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire Department's Annual Open House (Uptown Fire Hall)</li> </ul>
Sept 28	Tu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Library Advisory Board Meeting at 10:30am (Library)</li> <li>• Senior Advisory Board Meeting at 1:00pm (Senior Center)</li> </ul>
Sept 30	Th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban Renewal District Committee Meeting at 4:00pm (Conference Rm)</li> </ul>
Oct 4	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City Council Meeting at 7:00pm (City Council Chambers)</li> </ul>
Oct 7	Th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History of the Reedsport Athletics: 1970's at 6:30 (UDC)</li> </ul>
Oct 14	Th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning Commission Meeting at 7:00pm (City Council Chambers)</li> </ul>
Oct 28	Tu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senior Advisory Board Meeting at 1:00pm (Senior Center)</li> </ul>
Nov 1	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City Council Meeting at 7:00pm (City Council Chambers)</li> </ul>
Nov 18	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning Commission Meeting at 7:00pm (Council Chambers)</li> </ul>
Nov 23	Tu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senior Advisory Board Meeting at 1:00pm (Senior Center)</li> </ul>
Dec 6	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City Council Meeting at 7:00pm (City Council Chambers)</li> </ul>

Check us out online at [www.cityofreedsport.org](http://www.cityofreedsport.org)



## Community Partnerships = Innovative Projects

The newly formed Parks & Beautification Committee (P&BC) was energized by the merging of the City's Park Committee, Tree Board and Beautification Committee in the fall of 2009 and quickly identified top priority projects. High on the list was replacing the chain link fence at Lions Park located on Highway 101 between 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Streets. The chain link fence was installed to keep stray balls from entering Highway 101 and when the ball parks moved, the fencing became an eyesore. The P&BC members knew that there was high interest in the community for replacing the fence and held meetings to brainstorm fence criteria. What evolved was a project not one of us could have developed alone.

The community's voice was clear on two criteria - the fence must include art and local students. As Floyd Dollar, Public Works Superintendent, researched manufacturers, he discovered a metal shop owned by David Anthony who lives in Gardiner. Mr. Anthony, a metal sculptor, made a presentation to the P&BC and community members on how we could incorporate art into the fence project. It was also suggested to contact Reedsport Community Charter School (RCCS) and explore the options of working with students. RCCS embraced the idea and as a result, students will earn school credit as they work with Mr. Anthony to design, manufacture and install the 320' galvanized steel fence.

P&BC's objective is to install a fence that funnels park users to the crosswalks and improves driver visibility, incorporates art, involves youth, and reflects our local heritage and community. The new fence will include seven scenes depicting local water/wild life. The top of the fence will undulate, reflecting the motion of swells on the water. Galvanized steel art pieces ranging in size from 4' to 30' will be coated with a lacquer dye of various colors and affixed to the fence. The fence will be installed on a concrete footer with a stamped pattern complimenting the fence.

All work will be completed within the Coastal Douglas community by the local sculptor, students and contractors with the exception of galvanizing the steel. Three semester courses will be offered starting in 2011 with an installation date scheduled for the summer of 2012.

"Help - Buy Kelp" is a fundraiser that will give our community the opportunity to become part of the art fence. For a donation of \$100 or more your name, memorial or affiliation will be inscribed on a kelp leaf. The donation will be applied directly to the design, manufacture and installation of the fence. With the fence anticipated to last decades, we think it will show future generations our community support and pride in a uniquely functional public art piece. We hope that you will support the project by spreading the word, volunteering or donating. Donation forms are available at City Hall or online at [www.cityofreedsport.org](http://www.cityofreedsport.org).