



THE REDMOND RECORDER

REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
AUGUST 2022 • VOL. 24 • NO. 7

Every town has a history. Discover ours.

EXTRA, EXTRA! SOCIETY SPECIAL SUMMER EDITION



It's official! Redmond Mayor Angela Birney and RHS President John Oftebro cut the ribbon at the Society's Grand Opening on June 27, 2022. OneRedmond organized the event. L-R: Council Members Melissa Stuart and Vanessa Kritzer, RHS Administration & Collections Manager Hallee Turner, Mayor Angela Birney, RHS President John Oftebro, Senior VP Laura Lee Bennett, and Collections Committee Member Joe Townsend. In back: VP Collections Mary Horabik and Collections Committee Member Dean Jowers. See p. 3.

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- RHS newsletter volunteer Deb Akerstrom recaps Derby Days event, p. 4.
 - Tom Hitzroth explores two school fires in early Redmond, p. 6.
 - Dean Jowers answers SVN photo inquiry—50 years late, p. 9.

2022

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Our finances are public record and may be viewed at the office.

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If you don't subscribe, please sign up. Call the office at **425.885.2919** or email info@redmondhistoricalsociety.org. State your preference of email or U.S. Mail. The Historical Society prefers email as it's inexpensive and photos are enhanced online.

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HOURS Please contact the office to schedule an appointment

SOCIETY NEWS

SATURDAY SPEAKER SERIES RETURNS SEPTEMBER 10

We are thrilled to be planning our in-person Saturday Speaker Series program back in the Old Redmond Schoolhouse for the first time in three years. Our September program—a hybrid of live and online event—features Aerojet Rocketdyne! You will learn of their early Redmond history and their now-incredible presence in providing rockets for space work, including powering the Mars programs. Details to follow for the September 10 meeting.



Sotheby's
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Society Partners with Sotheby's International Realty

Marketplace Sotheby's International Realty brokers **Cynthia Olsen** and **Mary Sullivan** have formed a unique partnership with the Redmond Historical Society in an effort to help raise money for the Society. Sotheby's International Realty will give 10% of commissions to support the Redmond Historical Society when you or someone you refer buys or sells property. Marketplace Sotheby's International Realty established this program as a way to give back to organizations that are committed to the welfare of our communities. For more information, contact Cynthia Olsen at cynthia.olsen@sothebysrealty.com, 425.877.9904, Mary Sullivan at mary.sullivan@sothebysrealty.com, 425.449.2841, or call the Society Office at 425.885.2919.



MAYOR, ONEREDMOND KICK OFF SOCIETY'S GRAND OPENING By John Oftebro

On Monday, June 27, Mayor **Angela Birney**, along with City Council Members **Vanessa Kritzer** and **Melissa Stuart**, participated in our official ribbon cutting ceremony. **Kristina Hudson** and **Donna Bannister** from OneRedmond organized the event. On hand were **Halee Turner**, **Mary Horabik**, **Dean Jowers**, and **Joe Townsend** from the Collections Committee to guide our guests through the space.

After my comments thanking the City for getting us into the space, Mayor Birney's remarks focused on her appreciation for the patience the Society exhibited while continuing in our role of preserving Redmond's history over our three years of wandering, and

the pandemic. **Laura Lee** and I were greeters before and after the tour, and heard many compliments on our office/museum from our guests.

Although RHS has been a member of OneRedmond for a couple of years, we recently completed a mutual membership arrangement, and we now recognize OneRedmond as a Business Member. We will be working with their staff to develop activities and programs that benefit both organizations.

Thanks again to all who helped us get to this exciting point in our history of the Society! Special thanks to **Amanda Demi** from Parks & Rec, who worked with us on event logistics.



Dean points out the house he grew up in on a 1982 aerial photo of Redmond.



L-R: OneRedmond Office Manager Donna Bannister and CEO Kristina Hudson with Joe Townsend

SOCIETY MARCHES TO ‘GREEN REDMOND’ THEME AT DERBY DAYS By Deb Akerstrom

July 8th and 9th seemed to break records for the number of people gathering in downtown Redmond. Derby Days 2022 was in full bloom assisted by beautiful weather and a lot of smiling people.

At the RHS Booth, there were entertaining and clever things for kids to do: build a windmill like the one in Marymoor Park, and collect small pieces of paper that will produce flowers when planted. Most fun was a chance to vote on the name of our new chicken mascot: Ada, Sadie, Henrietta, or Rosalie?

Dozens of booths provided almost any piece of sustainability information, entertainment, food, or creative item one might want, and the carnival atmosphere was alive and well!

Then—the Derby Days Grand Parade began! Drummers, dancers, marchers and even dogs and ponies highlighted

the flow of talent entertaining the huge crowd. Well-organized, the parade included Guide Dogs for the Blind, represented by a number of handsome canines. And even later came Save a Forgotten Equine (SAFE) ponies’ parade marching along with the dancing, drumming celebration.

Food was everywhere, beginning with the Fire Department’s pancake breakfast, an event that helps raise money to assist victims of fire. Booth after booth offered food to help keep visitors going for the day.

One of the highlights was the “Derby Drones!” A spectacular show in which the drones flew over the crowd and spelled out the City logo, and dozens of nature pictures appeared across the night sky.

Derby Days was a great success...and a result of incredibly hard work by the City of Redmond!



“March of the Vegetables and Fruits” in the Grand Parade: Jerry Torell (“Pied Piper” and champion of Redmond’s iconic “Bicycle Capital of the Northwest” sign) and past mayor Rosemarie Ives carry the RHS banner. Photo: John Oftbro

HUGE HISTORIC THANK YOUS – REDMOND DERBY DAYS

After a two-year hiatus, RHS came back in flying (walking) colors at Derby Days. Hat tip to **Halee Turner** for masterminding the Society’s participation, and to **Jo Ann Potter** for arranging the parade marchers and booth coverage! Many thanks to the following volunteers:

Deb Akerstrom	Lyle Hanson	Nicole Mihaylova	Patsy Rosenbach
Laura Lee Bennett	Mary Horabik	Paige Norman	Jerry Torell
Janie Bube	Rosemarie Ives	Deborah Oftebro	Joe Townsend
Catherine Garrett	Dean Jowers	John Oftebro	Bob Yoder



The RHS parade theme was “History and Harvest”; Halee Turner pulled the wagon, on loan from Paige Norman.
Photo: Cheryl Strong Magnuson



RHS Stars: Marchers smiling for the camera. Photo: John Oftebro



Patsy Rosenbach instructs visitors on the windmill craft project.
Photo: John Oftebro

SCHOOL FIRES OF 1895 AND 1896

By Tom Hitzroth

It has been the tempting dream of school children since time immemorial that their school would burn down, and they wouldn't have to go to school. In 1895 and 1896, that actually happened in Redmond. When the log school closed in the fall of 1887, the school moved to the Congregational Church in today's Anderson Park. Five years later, on December 16, 1892, the Redmond School District purchased one acre of land from **Warren Perrigo** for \$100 (\$3,120 today) adjacent to the land Warren sold to the Congregational Church in 1884.

In 1893, the school district constructed a school building that served the community until August 1895. Two weeks before school opened that year, someone—thought to be a disgruntled local resident—burned down the school, leaving a note that “unless the next building was located elsewhere it would be destroyed.” In February 1896, the school district contracted for a new school building, which

was completed by June 30 on the same site as the previous building. True to their word, on August 28, 1896, two weeks before school was to start, the new building went up in flames. The Congregational Church was pressed into service again. The arsonist was never apprehended.

Clarence Bagley's 1929 *History of King County*, suggests another school was built in 1897. The financial records of Redmond School District do not show construction of a replacement building, nor is there any mention in the daily record of the King County Superintendent of Schools of a new school constructed at that time.

The Congregational Church became the home of the Redmond School until 1908, when a new school was constructed on a different part of the lot (see below photo). In 1922, that building would be replaced by the brick building we know and appreciate today.



Redmond School
ca. 1909. Photo:
Winfred Wallace.
Source: Eastside
Heritage Center

SOCIETY ANNOUNCES 2022 WALKING TOURS

Since 2003, Tom Hitzroth has led walking tours of Redmond's historic district. Over the years, the tour has evolved from one hour to two, with the script changing as new information is discovered. This year, the tour will incorporate the site of a newly discovered hotel and the site of a 1905 homicide.

A lifelong Eastside resident, Hitzroth continues to work at identifying details of Redmond's development from its earliest time into the 1930s. He is currently investigating the historic site of the settlement of Melrose that preceded Redmond, the land claim area of Redmond, and the historic development of the downtown.



Tom Hitzroth in front
of Justice White House/
Hotel Redmond.
Photo: John Oftebro



2022 Walking Tour Schedule

Sunday August 14, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Sunday September 4, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Tours meet as scheduled and begin across the street from the Justice White House/Hotel Redmond (Jensen/Fey Architects) at 7730 NE 76th St. Tours will not be conducted in the rain.

Please be advised that proof of vaccination or a negative test result is not required for this outdoor tour, but masks are encouraged. These events also include a significant amount of walking or standing, with limited opportunities for resting. We recommend wearing comfortable shoes, weather-appropriate clothing, and bringing a water bottle.

Tickets are available for \$10 per person on the Events page at [RedmondHistoricalSociety.org](https://www.redmondhistoricalsociety.org). Registration is required by the Wednesday prior to the tour, and tours are limited to 10 participants. To ensure the group maximum is not exceeded, please make sure your registration includes every member of your party. For further questions, please call our office at 425-885-2919.

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Tsong-Jhy Kao	August 1
Jane Mecke Wood	August 3
John DeYoung	August 18
Larry Miller	August 21
Jackie Norris	August 22
Doris Schaiable	August 25

If you'd like us to recognize your birthday in upcoming newsletters, please complete the information on your renewal form or email: membership@redmondhistoricalsociety.org.

OUR SOCIETY LIFETIME MEMBERS

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Patti Simpson Ward
Donald Glennister Watts
Joanne Westlund
James Windle

An asterisk (*) indicates Family Lifetime members. A full listing of Lifetime Members, both current and in memoriam, is available at redmondhistoricalsociety.org.

50 YEARS LATE By Dean Jowers

While researching the 1905 **George Butchard** murder with Tom Hitzroth, I found an article in the April 26, 1972 edition of the *Sammamish Valley News* with a photo of the Redmond Saloon, circa 1895. The article stated that a young man—**Steve Sheldon** in Bloomington, Indiana—had the photo, and was asking for information about it. People were invited to respond to the SVNews if they knew anything. I had never seen the photo before, and it was new to Tom also.

I did a Google search, and found a person with the same name, living in the same town in Indiana, who was a professional photographer. I sent an email with the SVN article attached, and asked if he was the one mentioned in the article. Nine minutes later, I had a positive

response from Steve. He was still interested in learning about the photo. I told him some basics, and that I would ask Tom to do a full history of the building. I said it would probably take a couple of days. He responded with a thank you, and that there was no hurry. He said, "I've been waiting since 1972!!!!!" He had sent the photo while in high school.

After Tom finished the history of the building, I forwarded it to Steve. He again thanked me for all the work we did. I told him it was our pleasure, and that next time, we would try to be more prompt. Now we know that the footprint of the Redmond Saloon would be in the center of the building on the SW corner of Leary and Cleveland—now known as Hashtag.



Clipping from SVN, April 26, 1972. Source: RHS Archives

234 HOURS VOLUNTEERED!

In July, we submitted a very appropriate entry in the Derby Days parade with produce signs and costumes representing sustainable farming. Even a fork and spoon joined us! The committee worked many hours creating the vegetables and fruits before walking in the parade with them. Even more volunteers staffed the Society booth during a long day. Faithful volunteers **Patsy Rosenbach, John and Deborah Oftebro, Mary Horabik, Nicole Mihaylova, Rosemarie Ives, Jerry Torell, Lyle Hanson, Catherine Garrett, Tom Hansen, Deb Akerstrom, Bob Yoder, and Joe Townsend** made our presence a success!



Deborah and John Oftebro as spoon and fork in the Grand Parade.

On July 16th, we had our first information booth at the Saturday Market. Thanks, once again, to **John Oftebro, Tom Hansen, Dean Jowers, Nicole Mihaylova, Joe Townsend, Deb Akerstrom, and Nicole McDonald** for staffing the two-hour shifts from 9-2.

WELCOME to **Nicole McDonald** and **Steph Hartford**, our newest volunteers! As you can read above, Nicole has already volunteered at the Saturday Market. Steph has a Master's Degree in Library and Information Science, which should be helpful to us in archiving and preserving materials.

VOLUNTEER VOICE

“Whatever community organization, whether it’s a women’s organization, or fighting for racial justice ... you will get satisfaction out of doing something to give back to the community that you never get in any other way.”

— Ruth Bader Ginsburg



REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2022 MEMBERSHIP

Every town has a history. Discover ours.

LEVELS OF MEMBERSHIP (Check one only)

Trailblazer/Student (1 member)	\$5	_____
Pioneer/Individual (1 member)	\$25	_____
Homesteader/Family (2 members)	\$40	_____
Visionary/Business	\$250	_____
History Maker/Lifetime (1 member)	\$1,000	_____
Legacy/Family Lifetime (2 members)	\$2,000	_____

I'd like to be a Sustaining Partner through annual donations in addition to my membership.

Membership Names: 1) _____ 2) _____

Address: _____ Unit# _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Birthdate Member 1 _____ mm/dd/yy (optional)

Birthdate Member 2 _____ mm/dd/yy (optional)

- Address Change
 New Member
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 New to Redmond
 I am interested in being a volunteer

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