

Seniors can defer property taxes under program

SALEM — New applicants and those who need to recertify their eligibility for the disabled or senior citizen property tax deferral programs have three weeks left to file their paperwork.

For their taxes to be paid in November, taxpayers need to meet the April 15 deadline, explained Bronson Rueda, deferral program manager at the Department of Revenue. This applies to participants who received recertification forms by mail in February and new applicants for deferral.

"If we don't get their forms by

the deadline, they'll be responsible for paying their property taxes this year," Rueda said.

The deferral program allows eligible senior citizens and people with disabilities to have the state pay property taxes on their behalf until they move, sell their home or die. A lien is placed on their home, and all taxes, interest, and fees must be repaid before the lien is removed. Oregon's deferral programs have approximately 6,300 active participants.

Program participants must meet all of the following criteria:

- Be either at least 62 years old or a disabled citizen receiving or eligible to receive federal Social Security disability benefits.
- Own or be in the process of buying the property, have a recorded deed or sales contract in their name, or have a revocable trust, and have lived on the property for at least five years.
- May not have a life estate interest, which enables a person to reside on the property, but automatically transfers ownership upon death.
- Carry homeowners insurance.

• Have a household income of less than \$43,000. This includes all taxable and non-taxable income for the applicant(s) and spouse(s).

• Have a net worth of \$500,000 or less, not including the value of the home in the program or personal property.

• Either have no reverse mortgage; or if they do, they need to have been in the deferral program prior to 2011.

Recertification forms need to be returned to the department. New applications should be sent to the assessor's office for the county in

which the property is located. Applications are available at www.oregon.gov/dor/deferral

Questions about deferrals can be emailed to deferral.unit@oregon.gov. Taxpayers can also call 503-945-8348 for more information.

Visit www.oregon.gov/dor to get tax information, check the status of your refund, or make payments. You can also email questions.dor@oregon.gov or call 503-378-4988 or 800-356-4222 (toll-free). The department receives a lot of phone calls during tax season so you may experience long wait times.

WDFW plans 24 days of razor clam digging

OLYMPIA, Wash. — The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has proposed a series of razor clam digs in April and May to cap a season packed with more "beach days" than any time in the past 25 years.

After a nine-day opening that runs through March 24, state shellfish managers plan to end the season with another 24 days of digging on morning low tides at various beaches from April 4 through May 17.

Final approval of those digs depends on the results of marine toxin tests, which have consistently shown this season that the clams are safe to eat.

"We've had a great season so far and we expect it to continue that way in the months ahead," said Dan Ayres, WDFW coastal shellfish manager. "We have an abundance of clams on most beaches, which makes for some terrific digging opportunities."

Proposed digging days in April and May, along with the remaining digs in March, are posted on WDFW's website at <http://1.usa.gov/1ev7K2F>.

Under state law, diggers are required to keep the first 15 clams they dig. Each digger's clams must be kept in a separate container. No digging is allowed on any beach after noon.

Counting the new dates in April and May, Ayres said WDFW plans to provide a total of 286 "beach days" of digging on Washington beaches this season — the highest number since 1989. He defined a "beach day" as one beach open for a single day, so four beaches open for one day counts as four beach days.

Annual razor clam seasons typically end in mid-to-late May, when the clams begin to spawn and are less desirable for eating, Ayres said.

He reminds diggers they will need a valid 2015-16 fishing license to participate in razor clam digs effective April 1, the beginning of the new license year. Various types of fishing licenses are available online



EO Media Group file

Ample razor clamming days contributed to a significant improvement in retail sales in Long Beach and other seashore towns in Pacific County in recent years.

DIG DATES

• April 4: 7:23 a.m.; 0.6 feet; Long Beach, Twin Harbors, Mocrocks, Copalis
 • April 5: 7:57 a.m.; 0.3 feet; Long Beach, Twin Harbors, Mocrocks, Copalis
 • April 6: 8:32 a.m.; 0.3 feet; Long Beach, Twin Harbors
 • April 7: 9:09 a.m.; 0.1 feet; Long Beach, Twin Harbors
 • April 8: 9:48 a.m.; 0.1 feet; Long Beach, Twin Harbors
 • April 9: 10:32 a.m.; 0.2 feet; Long Beach, Twin Harbors
 • April 10: 11:23 a.m.; 0.4 feet; Long Beach, Twin Harbors
 • April 17: 6:03 a.m.; -0.2 feet;

Long Beach, Twin Harbors, Mocrocks
 • April 18: 6:52 a.m.; -0.9 feet; Long Beach, Twin Harbors, Mocrocks, Copalis
 • April 19: 7:39 a.m.; -1.3 feet; Long Beach, Twin Harbors, Mocrocks, Copalis
 • April 20: 8:25 a.m.; -1.5 feet; Long Beach, Twin Harbors
 • April 21: 9:11 a.m.; -1.3 feet; Long Beach, Twin Harbors
 • April 22: 9:57 a.m.; -0.9 feet; Long Beach, Twin Harbors
 • April 23: 10:46 a.m.; -0.4 feet; Long Beach, Twin Harbors
 • April 24: 11:38 a.m.; 0.2 feet; Long Beach, Twin Harbors

• May 2: 6:23 a.m., 0.2 feet; Long Beach, Twin Harbors
 • May 3: 6:59 a.m., -0.3 feet; Long Beach, Twin Harbors
 • May 7: 9:30 a.m., -0.8 feet; Long Beach, Twin Harbors
 • May 8: 10:14 a.m., -0.7 feet; Long Beach, Twin Harbors
 • May 9: 11:03 a.m., -0.4 feet; Long Beach, Twin Harbors
 • May 10: 11:58 a.m., -0.1 feet; Long Beach, Twin Harbors
 • May 15: 4:58 a.m., -0.2 feet; Long Beach, Twin Harbors
 • May 16: 5:50 a.m., -0.9 feet; Long Beach, Twin Harbors
 • May 17: 6:38 a.m., -1.5 feet; Long Beach, Twin Harbors

(fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov), by phone (866-246-9453), and from authorized license dealers throughout the state.

Avoid plovers

Meanwhile, state wildlife managers are urging clam diggers to avoid disturbing snowy plovers and streaked horned larks. Both species nest in the soft, dry sand at Leadbetter Point on the Long Beach Peninsula and on a section of Twin Harbors beach.

The snowy plover is a small bird with gray wings and a white breast. The lark is a small bird with a pale

yellow breast and brown back. Male larks have a black mask, breast band and "horns." Both species are listed as "threatened" under the federal Endangered Species Act.

"Nesting season for snowy plovers and streaked horned larks begins in early April, coinciding with the scheduled clam digs," said Anthony Novack, district biologist for WDFW. "Snowy plover nests are difficult to see, so it's easy to disturb or destroy them without even being aware of it. If an adult is scared off its nest, it leaves the eggs exposed to predators like crows and ravens."

To protect these birds, the department asks that clam diggers avoid the dunes and areas of the beach with soft, dry sand. When driving to a clam-digging area, diggers should enter the beach only at designated access points and stay on the hard-packed sand near or below the high tide line, Novack said.

Dig dates in May for Copalis and Mocrocks will be announced after harvest from the April digs has been analyzed. Upcoming digs in April and May are scheduled on the dates posted above, pending favorable marine toxin results.

RELIGION BRIEFS

Zen Monastery

CLATSKANIE — The Great Vow Zen Monastery, located at 79640 Quincy-Mayger Road in Clatskanie, is holding a "Beginner's Mind Weekend Retreat," led by Adam Jogen Salzberg and Patrick Bansho Green, from 5 p.m. April 10 to 1 p.m. April 12.

During this weekend a monastic schedule will be followed, which allows us to temporarily drop what's outside and go deeply into inner work. All elements of a meditation retreat will be covered, including basic meditation techniques, posture, breathing, formal meals, and dealing with obstructions.

The cost is \$150 (\$120 for Zen Community of Oregon; a \$75 reduced rate available to those in need) plus donation.

For details, call 503-728-0654 or email registrar@greatvow.org. Register online at <http://bit.ly/1DCNE71>

Astoria Church of Christ

The nondenominational Astoria Church of Christ, 692 12th St., is hosting its third annual celebration of Easter, a community sing-along, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday. All are welcome, and refreshments will be served.

For information, call 503-791-3235.

Beit Salmon

Congregation Beit Salmon is holding its first annual potluck Passover Seder from 6 to 9 p.m. April 10. Tickets cost \$20 per adult, no cost for those under age 18. Tickets must be purchased in advance, and space is limited.

For tickets and information, con-

tact Allie Evans at 503-869-6743.

Star of the Sea

The Easter week schedule for St. Mary, Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 1465 Grand Ave., is as follows:

There is a Holy Thursday service at 7 p.m. Thursday. On Friday, April 3, there is a Good Friday service at 7 p.m. An Easter Vigil Service takes place at 7 p.m. April 4, Holy Saturday, and there are three Masses being held on Easter Sunday, April 5: at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m., and a Spanish Mass at 1 p.m.

For information, call the church at 503-325-3671.

Holy Nativity Eastern Orthodox

HAMMOND — The Holy Nativity Eastern Orthodox Mission is holding services Sunday at St. Francis de Sales Mission, 867 Fifth St. in Hammond. Matins begin at 9 a.m., with Divine Liturgy beginning at 10 a.m.

The Rev. Kevin Lien, assistant pastor of the Church of the Annunciation in Milwaukie and rector of Holy Nativity Mission, will celebrate the Divine Liturgy. Confessions will be heard during Matins from 9 to 10 a.m. or by appointment.

All Eastern Orthodox are welcome to participate. Those interested in attending an Eastern Orthodox Divine Liturgy are welcome, as well. For questions, contact Steve Sollars at 503-298-3453 or Linda Andres at 503-440-3930.

Grace Episcopal

Holy Week, the week commemorating the events that led up to Easter Sunday, April 5, begins at Grace Episcopal

Church, 1545 Franklin Ave., with a single Palm Sunday service at 9 a.m. Sunday. The palms will be blessed before a procession with the palms and crosses, with parishioners taking the parts in the reading of the story.

Anyone who is interested in learning how to fold palm fronds into palm crosses is invited to come at 10 a.m. Saturday. In preparation for Easter, help is also needed from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday to prepare the church and grounds. Lunch is being served at noon.

On Wednesday in Holy Week there is a Taizé worship service at 7 p.m. The program features songs of Peace in Lent. Musicians include Jennifer Goodenberger (piano) and Shelley Loring (flute).

On Maundy Thursday at 5:30 p.m. there is an instructed "Christian Passover Meal" and a potluck featuring food from the Holy Land. The Maundy Thursday Service follows, which recalls the Last Supper and foot washing. The altar will be stripped, and will stay bare until Easter.

On Good Friday, April 3, the Stations of the Cross Liturgy and Procession begins at 12:10 p.m., featuring a prelude and postlude with Jennifer Goodenberger (piano). The Good Friday Liturgy is at 7 p.m.

The Holy Saturday Liturgy of the Word is read on Holy Saturday, April 4, at noon.

For information, call the church at 503-325-4691 or go to www.graceastoria.org

Bahá'ís of Astoria

The Bahá'ís of Astoria are hosting a fireside Saturday about the Faith, which



Brad Eaton

is now in its 172nd year, at 300 W. Irving Ave. A dinner is provided at 6 p.m., followed by the informal fireside at 7 p.m.

This month's theme is "Bahá'í Prophecy." The speaker, Brad Eaton, was born

in Astoria, and is now the morning DJ for King FM (Classical) radio in Seattle. This is a relaxed home environment in which to comfortably ask questions about the Bahá'í Faith.

First United Methodist

The First United Methodist Church, 1076 Franklin Ave., invites everyone to its Palm Sunday Service at 11 a.m. Sunday. The service will begin with a Procession of Palms, and several members of the congregation will do readings from "I'll Sing of My Redeemer." The choir will sing an anthem, and Phil Keim will sing the 23rd Psalm. All children are welcome to join us in the service with their Palm Sunday Activity Bag and Snacks.

The church is handicapped accessible. Coffee and refreshments will be served after worship. Those needing a ride Sunday should call the church office at 503-325-5454.

For information, go to www.united-methodistastoria.org

Bethany Free Lutheran

The youth of Bethany Free Lutheran Church, 451 34th St., are holding a car

wash starting at 10 a.m. Saturday in the church parking lot. Donations will be accepted and will go toward a trip this summer to the Free Lutheran Youth National Convention in Estes Park, Colo.

The church will have a Maundy Thursday Communion Service at 7 p.m. Thursday. All are welcome.

The North Coast Ministerial Association is holding a Community Good Friday service at noon Friday, April 3, at Bethany Free Lutheran Church. Pastors and members from various churches in the community are participating in the service. The public is welcome.

For information, call 503-325-2925.

First Lutheran

Palm Sunday is being celebrated Sunday at First Lutheran Church, 725 33rd St., and the services of Holy Communion are at their regular times, 8:30 and 11 a.m. The palm procession will include singing, and the Passion Gospel is from Mark. It is the last Sunday for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America World Hunger sponsored program, Buck-a-Chick. The chicks and eggs provide families living in poverty with eggs for nutritious meals and income.

Holy week services at First Lutheran Church include Maundy Thursday Holy Communion at 7 p.m. Thursday. This service concludes with the stripping of the altar in preparation for Good Friday.

Good Friday includes a Tenebrae Service of Darkness. Using symbols of the season, youth and adults fully participate in the 7 p.m. worship service, including telling the Passion story in a way that uses sound, sight and scripture readings to bring the worshippers into the story. All are welcome.

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