

Help River Song

After you've sent a check for the hungry people of Clatsop Emergency Food Bank in the basement of the Presbyterian Church, if you have any extra to donate, there is the River Song Foundation (<http://riversongfoundation.org>). Rita Smith and a few friends are overwhelmed now with hungry, abandoned cats on the Riverwalk. And, she reports kitten season has arrived with a bang.

Their address is River Song Foundation, P.O. Box 44, Hammond, OR 97121 — \$2 or \$10 or \$20 would always be well used and appreciated.

Makes one wonder why people heartlessly drop off unwanted pets where there may be plenty of water but no food or shelter. Of course, the best answer is spay or neuter before the problem develops.

Our own orange-striped Jake has reappeared after Christmas and shows up faithfully two days out of three. He arrived back to us with what looked like a gunshot wound in the chest, and no longer stood on his hind legs to be petted. But he has cleaned the wound himself so it looks much better, and he is beginning to stand on his hind feet again to have his head rubbed.

We have not found his alternate family yet, but we are always so glad to see him — he has become very dear to us. Would that all stray cats could find a home — or two.

PAT MILLER
Astoria

Sign the petition

I would like everyone to know that we have until Aug. 15, 2016, to gather the required amount of registered voter signatures to be able to have the question placed on a ballot as to whether Warrenton voter approval is needed for the sale of public assets over \$100,000.

Our committee, the Warrenton Property Protection Committee, has submitted 450 signatures for verification. One hundred one of those signatures, for one reason or another, were invalid.

While gathering signatures, so many of the people I spoke with were very supportive, with only one person disagreeing. This individual told me he thought we all needed to support our elected commissioners. The truth of the matter is, this is about the only issue where I have disagreed with the City Commission.

Our committee wants the voters to decide this matter. When we obtain the remainder of the signatures needed and this is submitted to the commission, they will have 30 days to write a competing initiative, if they choose to do so.

If this happens, the voters will have a choice of three different options: They may pick either the committee's initiative, the City Commission's competing initiative, or vote no on both initiatives, which would result in no changes.

If you would like to sign the petition, please call me at 503-861-3887 and leave a message. Your call will be returned as soon as possible.

KEN YUILL
Warrenton

Play nice

To Harold Gable, Dan Jesse and the rest of the Gearhart dissidents: I would like to thank them, as one of the silent majority, for raking my town through their muck.

I realize it is their right as American citizens to be able to protest the way any government body is handling the events of the time, but for a personal vendetta, it is wrong.

If Jesse thinks it is so disheartening to have one person on the council, with whom he cannot agree, perhaps it should be he who resigns. I did not vote for a bunch of children who cannot get along with one another, and embarrass my town, where our family has had a presence since the 1800s. This goes for the entire council.

As for the dissidents, this recall is going to cost the taxpayers of Gearhart, according to officials, about \$7,000. I'm sure the city could find better use of these funds. My

McClure Park may get new life

Familiar with McClure Park? Just up Eighth Street from the Flavel House, between Franklin and Grand avenues, the park was the site of the first high school in Astoria, closing in 1919. The site later became known as McClure Park.

Years ago, McClure Park had a merry-go-round, functional ballfield, a classic steel swing set, a picnic table and a great steel slide. It continues to be a wonderful green-space very close to downtown Astoria. The park is a great place to eat lunch, watch the river flow by with all of its activity, and a popular site to view Fourth of July fireworks.

Currently, the park has a picnic table, a small replacement swing set, and a worn ballfield. But neighbors believe that is all about to change.



Submitted photo
Pictured, with the new ballfield bases at McClure Park, back row, from left, Allie Evans, Gigi Crowley, Dave McElroy, Beth LaFleur and Jonah Dart-McLean, maintenance supervisor, Astoria Parks and Recreation Department. Front row, Maya Evans, Eva Espelien, Oreck Evans, with bat, and Ethan and Max Van Ess.

Friends of McClure Park, a nonprofit group formed by neighbors in the area, and in partnership with the Astoria

Parks and Recreation Department and Foundation, has a goal to breathe new life into the park. This includes reworking the ballfield, adding natural playground equipment, river view benches and a fun-for-all hillside slide.

Two new handmade benches are being crafted by Austin Adams as part of his senior project, and new ballfield bases have been secured through a Thrivent Financial grant and neighborhood resident contributions.

To learn more, please check out the Facebook page, "Friends of McClure Park," and to help support their effort click on their GoFundMe page, www.gofundme.com/onc88g

DAVID AND JUDI
MCELROY
Astoria

suggestion is the petitioners should personally have to pay this cost.

Perhaps, next time they might want to wait until whomever it is they don't like comes up for re-election, and mount their own campaign to replace them. This is the true American way.

In the meantime, let's all try to play well with others.

PRESTON DEVEREAUX
Gearhart

Thanks to lifeguards

Not too long ago, I had the opportunity to take the Ellis & Associates Lifeguard Class at the Astoria Aquatic Center. As a parent of three young children living in an area surrounded by major bodies of water, I felt compelled to take the class. I wanted to be able to understand the precautions and risks I should look for while in the water, but to also experience the role of a lifeguard; the very person in whom I trust my children and myself when I utilize the pool.

The class was taught by the Aquatic Center manager, Pam Pearce. I found the class to be fun, informative, and very eye-opening. Aside from the basic first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) instruction, I learned: water wings and floaties are not proper flotation devices for young children, children can still drown while wearing a life vest and that many drownings of young children occur with their guardian just a few feet away from them.

The day I finished the lifeguard class, I took the time to observe the lifeguards at the Aquatic Center. We often take for granted that these young lifeguards have our lives and our children's lives in their hands while we utilize the pool. They remained vigilant and alert as the pool became crowded with spring break recreationists. Within a couple of hours, the lifeguards blew their whistle and jumped into the pool to rescue young children who, despite being arms' distance away from their guardians, struggled in the water, and were guided to safety by the young lifeguard, preventing major catastrophes.

I want to thank Pam Pearce for her true dedication in making the Astoria Aquatic Center a safe place for families and citizens to recreate, and for her vigilance in training the lifeguards on deck to be "rescue ready" at all times. I would also like to extend huge kudos to the lifeguards at the Aquatic Center. They truly understand the risks involved with water safety, and do a great job in preventing fatal injuries and drownings.

I encourage all parents and citizens to partake in the Ellis & Associates Lifeguard Class to learn about water safety and risk management. After all, we live by the amazing and powerful Columbia River and Pacific Ocean, and it is of vital importance to understand what to do in drowning situations. I would also like to encourage citizens to donate to the Astoria Parks Foundation and support scholarships, so that others have the opportunity to take the lifeguard class and fund continuing ed-

ucation. Thanks, Team Astoria Aquatic Center.

JANICE O'MALLEY
GALIZIO
Warrenton

Dangerous crossing

On March 25 at about 3 p.m., I was involved in an incident, which would likely have been fatal (for me), save for the fact I was stopped, as I always am, at the notorious Eighth Street and Irving Avenue intersection, regardless of which way anyone is driving.

The driver coming south of Eighth did, indeed, obey the stop sign, and appeared to see me intending to make a left on Irving, but then another driver screamed through the Irving yield sign, nearly colliding with my driver's side windshield. I laid on my horn, and she stopped long enough for me to get her license number, which I called to police dispatch, for what it's worth.

It was one of the 10 closest calls I've had at the intersection. Close calls are commonplace at there. Anyone who drives it

much has witnessed them. If it were not for the drivers like me, who know to stop irrespective of signage, there would be crashes there frequently. People tend to believe the intersection is a four-way stop — but it is not, and that's confusing, even for residents.

The intersection, notorious for decades for its confusing signage and configuration, and lack of stop signs on either north-bound Eighth or Irving, is a major corridor through town, through which, I've heard tell, a driver can speed through the whole of Astoria, without ever hitting a stop sign.

And the city is apparently proud of this, and intends to see it continue. What an interesting claim to fame — to have a road where speeders can reach max speeds by not having to deal with annoying impediments like stop signs. Astoria's Balkanized attitude, refusal to listen to the concerns of citizens, and failure to correct identified danger areas, confuses me, and others.

City Engineer Jeff Harrington and the police chief

have asserted on several occasions that Astoria has no traffic signage problems, "just bad drivers," and recently refused to discuss the Eighth and Irving intersection, again. They also blew off Coast Guard parents, concerned drivers on Alameda Avenue will hit their children.

Why? Curious reasoning ... seems that "bad drivers" would require more signage, rather than less, and what if a "bad driver" hits someone at these identified danger areas? Does the city carry any responsibility, given these trouble spots have been brought to the attention of the city countless times?

What justice is there for injured drivers, or families, if someone is killed? Why can't our tax dollars head these problems off before they become endless nightmares? Remember, when you are involved in a collision in these well-known danger zones, that these events are not "accidents," or "tragedies," but the result of gross negligence on the part of the city of Astoria.

SUE SKINNER
Astoria

Out of place

There is a place for adult entertainment, but featuring same on the front page of a family newspaper is not one of them ("What a drag," *The Daily Astorian*, March 30). The entertainers' stage names no doubt titillated readers, age 12 or so, and wouldn't raise an eyebrow in Hipfish, but raise my ire when printed here.

If this is the entertainment necessary to raise funds for the Astoria Downtown Historic District Association, so be it, but the organizers, participants and *The Daily Astorian* would have done well to recognize that not all inhabitants of these environs see a crazy, open-minded town as inspirational.

Has it ever occurred to those who want to revive downtown that being calm and constrained might actually be better for business?

JON CHAMBREAU
Ilwaco, Wash.

Studying Oregon

Hello, my name is Emmanuel. I am a fifth-grader at Napa Valley Language Academy in Napa, Calif. The reason that I chose your tremendous state was because my class is doing a state report, and I think your state is interesting. I would really like if you posted my letter in the newspaper so that I can get all the help I need for my state report.

What I need for my state report is material related to sports. I also need models of the state flag, state bird, river, plains, state animal, etc. I will be writing about your state's agriculture, history, economy, events, historical figures and national parks. I will be doing an oral report and a state float.

Thank you for your support and help in making me a great researcher of your astounding state.

EMMANUEL CHANGO
Napa Valley Language

Academy
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