

# 9 trees to be cut down in Haystack Heights

Damage, decay, death make trees dangerous

By ERICK BENGEL  
EO Media Group

CANNON BEACH — Two trees recently toppled onto the same house in Haystack Heights in fairly quick succession, so the Cannon Beach Public Works Department now plans to remove nine potentially hazardous trees in the neighborhood that are standing in city right of way within a couple of months, said Public Works Director Dan Grassick.

ment, the city may face some serious consequences “if we don’t proceed with the removal,” Grassick told the City Council at its Tuesday work session.

During an October storm, a tree in the city right of way fell onto a house at the corner of East Chinook and Elk Run avenues. The property owners repaired the damage, and the tree was removed. Then, during the storm of Jan. 4 and 5, a second tree in the right of way clipped the side of the house on the way down, damaging the eaves and front porch, according to Grassick’s staff report.

Consequently, the property owners, who were “defi-

nately concerned,” asked the city to evaluate the remaining 13 trees in the right of way, Grassick said.

The city’s arborist, Will Caplinger, evaluated the grove twice and recommended that nine of the trees along East Chinook Avenue be eliminated.

Of the nine trees, six are Sitka spruce between 25 and 125 feet tall, and three are western hemlock between 20 and 60 feet tall, according to Caplinger’s report. The troubling trees show signs of deteriorating health and stability, including, in some instances, basal decay. Some are either dead or dying.

The trees, left over from when the area was initially

cleared, also appear to have been damaged years ago, possibly when the neighborhood roads were built, Grassick said. “They are now starting to show that damage as the trees have gotten bigger.”

### Replanting

Though Grassick’s presentation was for the council’s information only, he brought the matter before them because the project is “much bigger than our normal tree-removal request,” he said.

In addition, he said the project would “make a difference on that corner in terms of look and appearance.”

After notifying nearby property owners, the city received one letter of opposition from residents who wrote that the tree loss will “change the character of the neighborhood!” The city advised them of the appeal process but didn’t receive a response, Grassick said.

Normally, the city does not replant after removing trees from its right of ways, though it does have the option, Grassick noted. “It’s not a hard and fast requirement.”

“I think it’s important that we actually put a species back that makes sense in our right of way, to actually maintain some sort of street tree cover,” City Manager

Brant Kucera said. Grassick cautioned against planting similar trees, ones that grow tall and develop sprawling limbs, because the city may find itself with similar problems as the ungainly specimens compete with the urban environment for space.

Mayor Sam Steidel said it would be good for the city to have a policy that stipulates “if we’re going to maintain our right of ways ... we should do it in an aesthetic way.”

He added that perhaps the city’s parks and community services committee could explore different vegetation options, to see “what could plant here nicely.”

## Astoria Fire Department announces new hire

By The Daily Astorian

The Astoria Fire Department recently announced the hiring of a new firefighter Brandon Knight of Battle Ground, Wash.

Knight, who started his new position April 2, previously worked for the Astoria Fire Department in the Student/Intern Firefighter Program from 2012 to 2014.

Knight graduated with honors from the Clatsop Community College Fire Science Program in June.

After graduation, he worked as a volunteer firefighter for Astoria Fire Department and was employed as a wildland firefighter with the Astoria District of the Oregon Department of Forestry until October.

Knight then moved back to Battle Ground where he served as a volunteer firefighter.

The Astoria firefighter position opened Dec. 31, when driver and engineer Mark Truax retired after a 25-year career in Astoria.

The Astoria Fire Department employs nine career firefighters, two administrative positions, one half-time office assistant, three student/intern firefighters and 14 trained volunteer firefighters.

“We are very pleased to have Brandon back with us here at the Astoria Fire Department. He is an exceptional young man who is very dedicated to the fire service, the Astoria Fire Department and to our ongoing mission of protecting the lives and property of the citizens of Astoria,” Astoria Fire Chief Ted Ames said.



Submitted photo  
Brandon Knight of Battle Ground, Wash., was recently hired as a firefighter by the Astoria Fire Department.

## Clatsop Care Auxiliary raises funds at sale

The Clatsop Care Center Auxiliary is sponsoring a New and Gently Used Sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday at Clatsop Care Center, 646 16th St. The sale features household items, books, games, toys, puzzles, tools, fur-

niture and more. Donations are welcome, but no clothing except costumes and hats.

Proceeds from the sale will be used by the auxiliary to support a variety of resident activities. To donate, or for questions, call 503-325-0313.

## Meet with Councilor Price Friday

All are welcome to attend the April Salonical, a political salon to exchange ideas and information, ask questions and express concerns about city politics with Astoria Ward 3 City Councilor Cindy Price, from noon to 2 p.m. Friday in the City Council Chambers, second floor of City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

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