



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

A sign outside the Goonies house driveway invites guests to visit other places around Astoria as well as write their opinions to be shown to the City Council at a later date.

## Goonies: 'It just got out of hand in our community'

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To help stem the tide, the city placed a sign near 38th Street on Monday that reads: "Access closed to Goonies house." Two months ago, the city posted signs prohibiting Goonies parking on 38th Street, an effort that has lessened vehicular traffic at the house but not foot traffic, Warr said.

"Most people ... think that it's an attraction, when it really, in fact, is a private residence," he said.

### Sense of entitlement

Though the narrow, dead-end street is still open to the public, Preston wants fans to respect her privacy and stay off of the premises.

"The (caliber) of people/generations is changing, and not for the better," Preston wrote on the The Goonies 30th Anniversary Facebook page. "They don't have a sense of family or community but feel entitled and let no one get in their way. We see it daily with the threats against us; all because we choose to have some privacy. It's been unrestricted for 14 years and we are worn out."

Preston has put up blue tarp around the front and side of the house to prevent fans from advancing into her yard, stepping onto their porch and peering through their windows — a not uncommon occurrence, Warr said.

The overwhelming majority of Goonies fans are "lovely, friendly, warm people," he said. "But there are a few who are really abusive, and several have refused to leave the property when asked to. They've offered to fight the homeowner. And those kinds of things are the things that make it really impossible for them."

While some fans have made their displeasure known, others got the message.

"We were disappointed. We just wanted to take a quick picture to show that we were there," Emerald Bishop of Bremerton, Wash., said, retreating from the

Goonies house Monday with her new husband, Bradley Bishop, and their chihuahua mix, Ollie. "But we were fine with not being able to see it, we know that it's a private residence and that people live there."

### Critical mass

Neighbors began to notice that Goonie fandom was reaching critical mass well before the 30th anniversary, according to Roger Warren, who lives near 38th Street.

"A couple of years ago, we saw it just turned into a circus. During the summer months, it was just thousands and thousands of people," he said, adding that drivers in the vicinity often faced solid gridlock. "It just got out of hand in our community."

That's when Warren and others approached the chamber, which has since tried to shift the fan focus away from the Goonies house.

In a recent email to their Goonies fanbase, the chamber wrote: "With vandalism, theft, excessive litter, obnoxious parking jobs, late night visitations and more the neighborhood has quite the turmoil in their backyard."

Warren estimates that between 10,000 and 15,000 people visited the Goonies house during the 30th anniversary celebration in June. This figure matches the chamber's estimate — 12,000 to 15,000 — of how many people pilgrimaged to Astoria specifically to commemorate the pop culture phenomenon.

The chamber has urged fans to view the house from a distance — for example, from Columbia Fields below the house or from the Astoria Riverwalk at 35th Street.

The chamber had hoped the Oregon Film Museum — housed in the old Clatsop County Jail building used in "The Goonies" prison break scene — would draw people away from the Goonies house. The film museum offers the house as a backdrop on their green screen set, where people can insert

themselves into an image of the house as an alternative to visiting it. "Now I think they just do both," Wilke said.

In addition, the Astoria Riverfront Trolley has asked conductors, when they point out the Goonies house, to discourage visiting.

### Residential to commercial

One big problem remains: The city can suggest that people not walk the street in front of the Goonies house, but "as long as that's a city street, it is a public thoroughfare," Warr said, "and we can't stop people from going on a public thoroughfare."

During a recent meeting among city staff, the idea of turning the street into a private road was discussed but not acted on, Warr said.

Wilke said the chamber may petition the city to go that route. "In the near future, that house may not be accessible for people to walk up to," she said.

Will Caplinger, a neighbor with a background in land use planning, argues the city has violated Astoria's comprehensive plan by allowing Goonies activities to grow unchecked in the neighborhood.

"There are rules that must be followed with these sorts of things," he said. "If somebody proposed this use out of the blue, it would for sure go through the land use process."

In practice, if not on paper, the neighborhood has morphed from a residential to a commercial area, he said.

"The city has done this action without even an inkling of a thought as to how (we should) preserve the residential character of this neighborhood," he said.

At Monday's council meeting, Warr acknowledged, now that "the monster's been created," "it's a really difficult problem, and I think that it's going to take some time to cure. But the city and the chamber together are working very hard to try to figure out what to do with it."

## Firefighters: 'We like being there, being involved'

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and equipment to help local resources battle blazes that threaten lives or structures.

When that threat was reduced, Clatsop County's crew was sent home, Knappa Fire District Chief Paul Olheiser said.

His department fights as many wildfires as structure fires per year, but they "burn real different."

Wildfires are "real weather and fuel dependent," Olheiser said. The stronger the winds, the faster the fire spreads. And hot, dry conditions make a blaze even harder to contain.

Improved weather conditions over the weekend helped crews make progress on Oregon's largest wildfire, Balzer said. Expected to merge with the Windy Ridge fire, the Cornet-Windy Ridge blaze, sparked by a lightning strike, has burned more than 150 square miles and destroyed six homes, according to reports.

On Monday, firefighters continued to build containment lines around the fire's perimeter.

### Special training

Task force members, such as those dispatched to Eastern Oregon, must complete special training first consisting of about 130 hours worth of classroom and field work to get wildland certification, Olheiser said.

Knappa's 28 firefighters receive continued training annually at Camp Rilea. The wildfire program provides hands-on experience and the opportunity to work as a crew, he added.

About a dozen of Cannon Beach's 24 volunteers



Les Zaitz/The Oregonian

The Mason Spring Fire, as seen from south of Canyon City, shortly after it flared up Thursday afternoon.

are certified to battle the state's wildfires, as well.

"It's a big commitment from the guys if they want to do it," Balzer said. But, he added, those who do are "excited about the chance to go out and help."

The entire county battled local wildfires near Arch Cape last year. And while a fire is never desired, the Warrenton Fire Department got the chance to "sharpen things up" when it assisted the Oregon Department of Forestry in the Fort Stevens blaze last month, Demers said.

That fire scorched 27 acres and took about three days to control.

According to the Oregon Department of Forestry, more than 620 fires have burned on lands protected by the department and forest protective associations in Oregon this year. The majority, more than 420, are caused by humans, including the recent County Line 2 fire on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation.

As the dry weather continues, the Department of Forestry and the state fire marshal are asking for the public's help in preventing fires by reducing fire-prone activities.

"There is a good chance we will get called out again," Balzer said.

AUGUST 22ND | 4-8 PM

It has been said, "Creativity knows no age" and the residents at Suzanne Elise would certainly agree with that statement. They will be hosting an art show featuring local artists from the Seaside area. There will also be a silent auction. Proceeds will benefit the Alzheimer's Association.



ART SHOW

& Silent Auction

August 22nd

4-8pm



Cindy Price

Drew Herzig

Russ Warr

Zetty Nemlowill

Arline LaMear

## Council: Sewer project along 16th Street delayed until next summer

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Community College's Patriot Hall.

The college will cover the roughly \$50,000 cost to postpone the work. The college had told the city it would likely cost several hundred thousand dollars to delay work on Patriot Hall for the sewer project.

• Approved a contract with the Astoria-Warrenton Chamber of Commerce for Promote Astoria funds.

The city's contract with the chamber for the tourism promotion money was a decade old, an oversight that drew criticism during a review of the city budget earlier this year.

• Heard Mayor Arline LaMear's appointments to a task force on homelessness,

mental health, medical and law enforcement issues.

The Coalition to Develop Partnerships for Dealing with Homeless-Community Interactions will include Police Chief Brad Johnston; Elaine Bruce, director of social services at Clatsop Community Action; Sumner Watkins, executive director of Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare; Brian Mahoney, Clatsop County's public health director; City Councilor Herzig; Karin Temple, citizen representative; Lisa Reid, for the Astoria Downtown Historic District Association and Chamber of Commerce; Lance Peeler, the rector at Grace Episcopal Church; and an emergency room representative from Columbia Memorial Hospital.

• Agreed to have a future City Council discussion on fluo-

ride in the city's drinking water.

Astoria voters approved fluoride in 1952 and again in 1956.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has found that drinking fluoridated water helps prevent tooth decay. The CDC listed the fluoridation of drinking water among the 10 great public health achievements of the 20th century.

But many Oregon cities, including Portland, have resisted fluoride.

City Councilor Zetty Nemlowill said the city should consider whether to put the question before voters.

She said people can make the individual choice whether to use fluoride.

"I think I would feel comfortable advocating for choice," Nemlowill said after the meeting.



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