

Short-term rental work session set in Gearhart

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

GEARHART — Residents who opposed bans on short-term rentals added their voices to the City Council discussion in Gearhart. While previous sessions focused on complaints of noise, overcrowding, unsanitary conditions and limited parking, last week’s meeting featured remarks from local homeowners who see no need for short-term rental regulations.

Kathy Schroeder of South Marion Avenue said Gearhart

was originally conceived as a rental community.

“It’s very nice that permanent residents have chosen to make this their home,” she said. “But most of the homes that were built on Marion Avenue 100 years ago were built to be summer shacks. They were not permanent residences. I don’t want the current population to be recategorizing the community differently from what it was created as.”

Gearhart’s Jim Whittemore sought a rationale for potential regulation. “What’s the end game?” he asked councilors.

“Are you trying to determine if you want short-term rentals? If they’re necessary? If they’re wanted by the residents? I want to know, what is your thinking?”

“We’re attempting to come up with a fair and equitable system, the way they’re doing it in Cannon Beach, Manzanita and Seaside,” Mayor Dianne Widdop said. “With some guidelines.”

Passionate topic

Many at the standing-room-only meeting picked up where an August meeting

left off, with complaints about noise, overcrowding and litter at short-term rental properties.

Gearhart’s John Dudley told councilors one vacation rental home “packs as many people as possible in the house, almost wall-to-wall beds.”

“Short-term rentals are a big problem for me,” Wilson Mark of North Cottage Avenue said. “Different people are living next door to me every few days. Sometimes large groups of people. Our property value is going down.”

Mark asked residents and the City Council to speed the

regulation process. He cited an ordinance from 1994 recognizing the importance of the city’s residential neighborhoods and the need to protect them from “the negative aspects of transient rentals of property.”

“To me, we already have this policy,” Mark said. “We have the framework for something that could work.”

“There are a few problems that people have with their neighbors,” Schroeder replied. “In other communities, people talk to their neighbors and solve them that way instead of instituting regulations

that affect the entire neighborhood.”

“It seems you are predisposed to come up with short-term regulations,” Whittemore added. “Is that where we’re at?”

“Something needs to be done,” Widdop said. “We need to work on it, and work on it now.”

The process will likely be divided between the Planning Commission and the City Council, she said.

A City Council work session is scheduled at Gearhart City Hall in October.

College gets progress report on Patriot Hall

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Only the north and west walls of Patriot Hall stand, surrounded by fencing and construction equipment.

Clatsop Community College and design firm SRG Partnership Inc. are in the midst of gathering bids for the construction of the redeveloped academic hall, a \$16 million project funded by state and local bonds.

Greg Dorcheus is the college’s facilities manager and an adviser on the Patriot Hall project, along with college publication services manager Ann Gyde. The two gave a report Tuesday to the college’s board of directors on the project’s progress.



The demolition of Patriot Hall is mostly complete, with seeking bids on work for the redeveloped academic hall.

The soft demolition is already complete, Dorcheus said, disconnecting the portions of the building being discarded from those being reused. The college has had the reusable materials trucked to Trails End Recovery.

“We’re in the cleanup phases right now,” Dorcheus said, adding a temporary footing was poured to anchor the two remaining walls, which will be incorporated into the new Patriot Hall.

The college has chosen Condon-Johnson & Associates, Inc., to shore the building site, and P&C Construction to pour the concrete.

A lot of the contractors have full plates right now, Dorcheus said, and some of the bids the college is getting for work on the new building are high. The college is value-engineering the project and looking through proposals to find savings, he said.

So far, 45 parking spots have been surrendered to the project, but Dorcheus said that could expand during the assembly of the building steel. The college paid the city of Astoria \$50,000 to delay work on the combined sewer overflow project and keep 16th Street open throughout construction. For displaced classes,

• Interim President Gerald Hamilton said the college is posting for a student retention adviser. The college also announced the addition of Jennifer Rasmussen as its new counselor for Upward Bound and Talent Search, federal programs to provide support to high school students from

disadvantaged backgrounds. Rasmussen, a local nutrition educator, has taught for the college’s Upward Bound Summer Academy and worked part time for Talent Search.

• The board approved aligning the pay scales of confidential classified employees with their other classified coworkers.

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Applicants sought for property tax appeals board

The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County continues to seek applicants for the Board of Property Tax Appeals, which is responsible for hearing taxpayer appeals for reduction of the real market or assessed value of real and personal property.

The Clatsop County Board of Commissioners is seeking candidates who: Have a working knowledge of the local real estate market, both residential and commercial; are willing to participate in public hearings, can quickly review documentation while listening to the public and can make reasonable decisions with the affected parties in attendance; have mediation skills, real estate appraisal, financing or related background as a strength; and are familiar with Oregon property tax.

A board consists of three members, and positions are open to residents of the county who are not employees or members of a taxing district within the county. The term begins Oct. 15 and ends June 30. One day of training is held in January prior to the hearings process.

The board holds several daytime meetings beginning the first Monday in February to hear petitions. The committee adjourns no later than April 15. Members receive

\$75 per day of service.

Appointments are made by the Board of Commissioners. Application forms are available on the county website, www.co.clatsop.or.us, or contact the Clatsop County Manager’s Office, 800 Exchange St., Suite 410, Astoria, OR, 503-325-1000.

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CITY OF ASTORIA SERVICE FAIR

Thursday, September 10, 2015
4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
at the
Columbia River Maritime Museum’s Barbey Center,
20th and Marine Drive

- Meet City officials, employees, and volunteers
- Find out what’s happening in City departments through displays and demonstrations
- See big construction equipment, police cars, and fire trucks up close
- Enjoy free hot dogs!!

City Council supports dumping some Heritage Square fill locally

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

Some of the contaminated soil piled in a pit at Heritage Square could be dumped at a quarry on Pipeline Road, sparing the city from a costly haul to a special-purpose landfill in Hillsboro.

The soil was unearthed during construction of the Garden of Surging Waves and is not considered as contaminated as other material at Heritage Square. The city will have to truck the other material to Hillsboro or a hazardous waste site in Arlington.

Astoria has been working with the state Department of Environmental Quality on a local disposal option for some of the soil to help stay within a \$400,000 U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency brownfields grant.

Half of the grant money was to identify contamination at the former Safeway site, while the other half was for cleanup. The city has worried that hauling soil to landfills would soak up the cleanup money.

Jeff Harrington, the city engineer, told the City Council Tuesday night that test results on the soil are still being analyzed. He said the soil that would be disposed at the quarry would not likely leach into groundwater.

The City Council voted 4-1 to approve local disposal. City Councilor Drew Herzig voted against the option. He wanted the city to consider storing the soil in above-ground containers instead of depositing the fill back into the ground.

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James M. (Stogie) Hill

September 7, 1944-January 26, 2015

All of us in Jim (Stogie) Hill’s family and circles of friends want to thank everyone who has celebrated, remembered and supported us during this time of grief since Jim’s death in January, 2015.

We have received so many acts of kindness and remembrance to us and support for his beloved Coast Community Radio station, KMUN. You are his legacy and his treasure — you are precious to us.

Keep it going, share kindness, be gentle.

With love, Jane (Maki) Hill

MY GUARDIAN G-PAPA

DEAR GUARDIAN

G-PAPA, EVER AT MY SIDE,
HOW LOVELY YOU MUST BE—
TO LEAVE YOUR HOME IN HEAVEN,
TO GUARD A CHILD LIKE ME.
WHEN I’M FAR AWAY FROM HOME,
OR MAYBE HARD AT PLAY—
I KNOW YOU WILL PROTECT ME,
FROM HARM ALONG THE WAY.
YOUR HANDSOME AND
SWEET SMILING FACE,
I SEE NOT, THOUGH YOU’RE NEAR.
THE HUMOR IN YOUR CHARMING VOICE,
I CANNOT REALLY HEAR.
WHEN I PRAY, YOU’RE PRAYING TOO,
YOUR PRAYER IS JUST FOR ME.
BUT, WHEN I SLEEP YOU NEVER DO,
YOU’RE WATCHING OVER ME.

*by granddaughter Krysta with
great-grandson Sawyer*