



Courtesy of the City of Seaside

A fire Sunday morning destroyed three homes and burned another.

Blaze: 'I think they had every fire truck in the county'

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damage, including broken windows, paint and smoke damage, Dugan said.

All homeowners and property owners have been notified, Dugan said. "I don't think we missed anybody. Insurance companies have been notified and they'll go through the process of documentation. First we have to determine the cause, once we do that, then we release that to the insurance companies. We get the first look, and then we hand it over to them."

One firefighter was treated for a knee injury suffered during the response.

"I talked to him last night, and he seems to be doing well," Dugan said.

Surveying the damage

Behind a cordoned off area Sunday, Neighbor David Doney said he was awakened by smoke and sirens. "We came down here when we saw this, about 4:30 this morning," Doney said. "There was a big gas fire going on. I think they had every fire truck in the county."

Seaside residents Carl and Shirley Yates arrived at the scene overnight. Their relatives, Chuck and Carole LaDeRoute, own one of the homes destroyed.

"We had Fourth of July barbecues in the back with all the neighbors," Shirley Yates said. "It was an old house, but it was so homey, it was so inviting."

The LaDeRoutes arrived in Seaside early Sunday morning from their home in Hillsboro. "I just spent \$25,000 upgrading the property," Chuck LaDeRoute said as he surveyed the still-smoldering fire.

The LaDeRoutes purchased the house in 1982. "We just put \$25K into it last year," Chuck LaDeRoute said. "New air-conditioning, new fireplace, new carpet. Well, looks like the fireplace is still working."

"We almost came down this weekend," he added. "I'm glad we didn't."

"God gave us a house and we've enjoyed it for many, many years," Carole LaDeRoute said. "We have lots of happy memories. We had Thanksgiving in that house a year ago."



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian

The fire on 11th Avenue in Seaside continued to burn through Sunday morning.



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian

Family members survey the scene in the aftermath of Sunday's early morning blaze in Seaside.



David Doney/For The Daily Astorian

Firefighters respond to a blaze in Seaside that destroyed three homes.

Seaside: 'Having maybe just a trifle less uncertainty makes more sense to me'

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determined that area alone could provide enough developable land to meet the city's 20-year land supply needs.

Landowners in that area, which is part of unincorporated Clatsop County, have questioned the expansion and how it would impact property tax evaluations, traffic patterns, infrastructure and lifestyles.

Two other sites, earlier deemed less desirable than the Southeast Hills site, are back on the table and could help disperse the impact of an boundary expansion. The first option is the Lewis and Clark Hills site, north of Lewis and Clark Road, which could provide about 23 acres of developable land. Second is the North Hills site, east of North Wahanna Road with potential access from Shore Terrace and Ocean Avenue, which could provide about 34 acres of buildable land.

MORE ONLINE

Maps of the sites are at <http://bit.ly/1jKipyn>

Hanson suggested the city take a two-step approach, first submitting a primary application to satisfy the 14-year land-needs analysis, and keeping the other options "on the books" to make another expansion request at a later date, if necessary.

Commissioners supported the more conservative approach but suggested, rather than taking the initial 141 acres entirely from the Southeast Hills site, combining the Lewis and Clark Hills site, the North Hills site and a portion of the Southeast Hills site, to more evenly distribute the impact.

"I want to bring in those other two sites and cut back on the amount we bring in from the Southeast site, because that's where all the

opposition is," Commissioner Richard Ridout said. "Whether we develop lowland or highland, that is the next thing to be decided."

Meeting state planning goals

The city started looking at expanding the urban growth boundary in order to address state guidelines regarding long-term planning for population growth and urbanization. Those guidelines ask municipalities to demonstrate a 20-year supply of developable land. The state is revamping and updating those guidelines to suggest a 14-year time frame instead to help streamline the process and make it simpler for smaller municipalities, Hanson said. Taking a conservative approach to the potential expansion would actually align Seaside with the changes the state is considering, and also address the concern of residents in the proposed boundary ex-

pansion area who suggested the city "overshot what our need is," Cupples added.

The Portland State University's Population Research Center is scheduled to issue a new population forecast for Seaside in June 2017.

The commission has received differing opinions on how much buildable land is needed to meet the city's projected population growth, with statistics supporting both sides, Commissioner Chris Hoth said. With the future uncertain, he favors planning for a shorter time frame.

"Having maybe just a trifle less uncertainty makes more sense to me," he said. "If we're going way out, we could be way over. We can always revisit it. We always have an option to do that."

Commissioner Tom Horning agreed, adding, "The 14-year look is a much more tangible situation."

Steidel: He dedicated his book to those who waited for it

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out West for the long-haul, including a short stint at Disney, and used his GI Bill to go back to school.

He was "scared to death" of his English course. It wasn't his strong subject in high school. His first assignment was a composition. With encouragement from his wife, he used his art with words to tell the tale. The spelling was atrocious, his teacher told him, but the story was good.

He used his storytelling skills to calm a bus full of unruly children during his time as a bus driver. He'd tried songs first and got the kids singing along, but received complaints from parents about the noise.

Then he began telling the stories. He told one that stretched on and on with cliff-hangers. It lasted eight months and enthralled the youth.

"Everything leads up to this book," he said.

Steidel dedicated his book to those who waited for it.

"Whose Move" is about an orphan named Timothy who lives in a desolate village plagued by a dragon. It comes annually during harvest time and destroys everything.

Eventually the villagers send the orphan out in suit of armor to face the beast. Timothy challenges it to a game of tic-tac-toe that he wins, sending the dragon away.

Every year they play the game, Timothy winning each time, making the village one of the nicest in the kingdom. Then the dragon finally wins.

Readers interested in finding out what happens next can find "Whose Move" at Steidel's Art, Goodreads, Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

There are a limited 100 hardbacks signed with a special drawing inside.

—Dani Palmer