

# THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Founded in 1873



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## OUR VIEW

# Enforcement will quell complaints on beach driving

Driving on the beach on the North Coast and sections of the Long Beach Peninsula is a privilege and not a right. So is using the beach in the first place.

Some beachfront homeowners in Gearhart and Warrenton are complaining, and understandably so, that beach driving and bad behavior have been at times, “out of control,” especially on July Fourth.

The homeowners recently aired their complaints at a town meeting with Clatsop County Sheriff Tom Bergin and U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici and urged either the elimination, reduction or increased enforcement of the beach-driving traffic.

The residents say some people using the beach and the neighboring trails are leaving volumes of disgusting trash; are driving recklessly, doing doughnuts with their vehicles and endangering pedestrians; and causing potential environmental and wildlife damage.

While the sheriff acknowledged that enforcement on Independence Day has been tough through the years, he also pointed out that closing the beaches to traffic is an idea that has been floated about every two years and has always been widely opposed. Only about 25 percent of Clatsop County’s beaches are open to vehicle traffic and Bergin says closing the beaches would be a mistake. And in the sheriff’s opinion, “99 percent of time people pick up their garbage and obey the rules” and that “it’s that 1 percent who go down there and cause a problem or two.”

As a result, he says, the majority shouldn’t have to suffer the closing of the beaches to vehicles because of the few who are causing the problem.

He’s absolutely right.

But that’s also a double-edged sword. To quell the complaints an increased police presence with more visibility is needed along with additional enforcement when necessary. That takes additional patrols from a limited budget and stretched-thin department, but Bergin needs to try and manage that more into the Sheriff’s Office operations. To augment the effort, the sheriff should also ask for more assistance from the Oregon State Police where needed.

Beachgoers need to realize, as Fort Stevens State Park Manager Teri Wing says, “it’s a beach and not a playground.” And, importantly, homeowners along stretches where vehicles are allowed need to remember that the beach belongs to all, not just a few.

# Monument idea needs development

Turning the under-used land at Peoples Park downtown off the riverfront into an area that recognizes the long history and cultural contributions of Scandinavians in Astoria has all the makings of a good idea.

But it’s only that right now — just an idea — and it needs further development.

The Astoria Scandinavian Heritage Association delivered the initial proposal to Astoria city councilors this past week. Peoples Park, off Marine Drive between 15th and 16th streets, would become Scandinavian Immigrant Park and would feature a dominant archway along with a maypole and a plaza with bas-relief sculptured panels that depict early immigrants as fishermen, loggers, cannery workers and merchants. Scandinavians represented more than a third of Astoria’s population in the early 1900s and it’s a heritage worthy of recognition.

As presented to the City Council, the city would remain the landowner and the park would be funded by private donations.

But as the saying goes, the devil is in the details, and it’s no different for this project. Still to be worked out are some pretty big details, including the park’s overall construction costs, the fundraising campaign for it, and an agreement on how the park would be maintained since the city’s overall park maintenance has been a long-term problem.

Additionally, the city’s master plan recommends that concentration should be placed on preserving existing parks rather than expanding with new ones.

But it was good to see councilors express initial flexibility. The city has entered into adopt-a-park agreements with organizations at other parks in the past, and that may be an option for this proposal as well.

Councilors responded to the presentation by asking the city’s park’s director, Angela Cosby, to work with the heritage organization and see where the idea can lead. If it does develop, the proposal would likely go before the city’s Historic Landmarks Commission for review before the full plan could be put in motion.

In most circumstances, though, anytime vacant eyesore-in-the-making land can be developed into something the community can be proud of, it’s a good idea and should get more attention. This one’s just that and should be developed and vetted.



# We’re winning!

By TIMOTHY EGAN  
*New York Times News Service*

Looking for refuge from the gust of insanity blowing across the fruited plain, I went to the highest perch I could reach in North Cascades National Park. I needed a break from the politician who has roused the lowest impulses of the American character.

What better escape from the primordial muck of Donald Trump and company than an alpine aerie of America’s Best Idea? Still, the stench of his recent provocations followed me to the far northwest corner of the contiguous United States. Hints of assassination from those “Second Amendment people.” Claiming that President Barack Obama founded the Islamic State. Sidling up to dictators who kill political opponents.

I could hear the bark of his soulless pessimism. “We are a country that doesn’t win anymore,” he said, time and again. “When was the last time we won?”

Back at sea level, what joy it was to behold this: so much winning! OK, the made-up robbery story by the male swimmers at the Olympics is a blemish. But look at the bigger picture: American women are dominating the games. Simone Biles, that sprite of exuberance, has four gold medals in gymnastics. The women’s basketball team is crushing it. And a Muslim fencer, the first U.S. athlete to compete while wearing a hijab, led the team to a medal.

I could mention that the Chicago Cubs, who last won a World Series in 1908, when Teddy Roosevelt was president and more Americans got around by horse than car, have the best record in baseball. (I know: Don’t jinx it).

After the hiatus, a decision: Do I dare peek at the polls? And here there is more good news, a broader kind of winning — for common sense, for the basic goodness and decency of the majority of people in this conflicted and troubled democracy of ours.

In the Cascade Mountains, in the summer of the centennial of the National Park Service, I saw waves of young people of all colors seeking “Sound of Music” views and nights with the Perseid meteor showers. And with the latest polls, I found the best hope for getting us out of this horrid spell of Trumpism — the generation now coming into its own.

Millennials are saving us. Yes, Trump is loathed by huge majorities of women, Latinos, blacks, college-educated whites, Catholics, Jews and religious skeptics. But the largest generational cohort of all, those born after 1980, really seems to get what kind of monster the Republican Party



AP Photo/Patrick Semansky

Connor Fields of the United States shows off his gold medal Friday to fans during a victory ceremony for the men’s BMX cycling final during the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

has loosed on the land. And they get it with their trademark coolness, the way they considered gay marriage no big deal. Their parents are in a lather of fear over Trump. The kids are — meh, it’ll pass. Of course, they still have to vote.

Among young adults, just 20 percent say they are for Trump, according to a survey released this week. There’s more support for a Doritos Locos Taco at a natural foods picnic than millennial backing for the narcissist from Trump Tower.

And it’s not just blue states. In Texas, Trump has a 25-point deficit among younger voters, and a 52-point gap with nonwhites. He’s getting buried by the demographic wave of the near future. In Texas!

Truth, justice and the American way are prevailing throughout the land. Trump has just one in four voters of all ages in his home state, New York, lagging the 35 percent that Mitt Romney got in 2012, according to a Siena College poll. He’s averaging about 30 percent in California, underperforming Romney’s 37, and doing about the same in Colorado, where Romney drew 46.

The winning is not necessarily for Hillary Clinton, though she is of course the beneficiary. Two things are going on this year. One is an election for president. The other is a rejection — sweeping, and unequivocal —

of the incivility and dangerous strain of anti-constitutional bigotry that Trump represents. People know who he is: The two words that come up most in focus groups are “racist” and “unqualified.”

I suspect many people share Obama’s sentiment. “Frankly, I’m tired of talking about her opponent,” he said last week. “I don’t have to make the case against her opponent because every time he talks he makes the case against his own candidacy.”

A desperate Trump is now doubling down on hatred and falsity with his new hire from the fever swamp of the far right. Things will get darker, more incendiary, more preposterous. What else can a man who has suggested that his opponent may have to be assassinated do? Just watch. He’s rooting for economic collapse, fresh terror attacks, anything to stoke fear and loathing. Fact-checking will be even more meaningless to him.

But also watch the Olympics — for inspiration — and the millennials and their big shrug. Remember Joe Biden’s line at the Democratic convention: “We own the finish line.” Trump once said that a time would come when there would be so much winning that people would get bored with it. The winning is happening; lightness is prevailing. In 80 days, we can bring on the boredom.

## LETTERS WELCOME

Letters should be exclusive to The Daily Astorian. We do not publish open letters or third-party letters.

Letters should be fewer than 350 words and must include the writer’s name, address and phone numbers. You will be contacted to confirm authorship.

All letters are subject to editing for space, grammar and, on occasion, factual accuracy and verbal verification of authorship. Only two letters per writer are printed each month.

Letters written in response to

other letter writers should address the issue at hand and, rather than mentioning the writer by name, should refer to the headline and date the letter was published. Disclosure should be civil and people should be referred to in a respectful manner. Letters referring to news stories should also mention the headline and date of publication.

The Daily Astorian welcomes short “in gratitude” notes from readers for publication. They should keep to a 200-word maximum and writers are asked to avoid simply listing event sponsors. They

must be signed, include the writer’s address, phone number and are subject to condensation and editing for style, grammar, etc.

Submissions may be sent in any of these ways:

E-mail to editor@dailyastorian.com;

Online form at www.dailyastorian.com;

Delivered to the Astorian offices at 949 Exchange St. and 1555 N. Roosevelt in Seaside.

Or by mail to Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103