Gearhart: If city's rules are adopted, they go into effect in early October

Continued from Page 1A

A higher cap

Another difference from the city's proposed ordinance is a short-term rental cap of 9 percent of homes licensed for vacation rental use.

Right now there are about 82 rentals out of 1,500 homes in Gearhart, Townsend said. An increase to 9 percent would equate to about 135 short-term rental properties, a "pretty low number," according to Townsend.

The rental homeowners' initiative eliminates a 60-day limit on offering permits, which would limit future permit opportunities. Under terms of the initiative, as long as there is available stock, homeowners could convert their homes to short-term rental.

The initiative seeks to enable transfer of permits regardless of home ownership — restricted under the city ordinance to inheritance only. "If my daughters decide to sell the property someday, I don't want to foreclose their ability if they decide for whatever reason sell it to someone who may want to rent it out," Townsend said.

Proposed parking rules are unnecessary, he said, especially as the ordinance limits the number of renters. "Why, if you have a nonvacation rental, can everybody can park on the street, but by the mere fact that you're renting it out you can't park on the street?"

The city's rules restrict occupancy to two people over age 2 per bedroom.

The initiative doesn't count kids under 18 toward that occupancy.

At its August meeting, the Gearhart City Council unanimously approved the first reading of two ordinances that would regulate properties occupied for less than a 30-day period.

If adopted, the regulations will go into effect in early October.

Property owner Jim Whittemore said he and others are "more than willing to sit down with city leaders and work out a compromise" with officials. Seventy-two of residents polled say the voters should decide the issue, not City Council, he said.

"With this information and poll data in the public domain, I am absolutely flummoxed as to why the City Council may choose to ignore it and proceed full-speed ahead with the passage of an ordinance on Wednesday, which in all likelihood will be replaced with a more conciliatory initiative we have proposed," Whittemore said. "Why not avoid that? I hope they do."

The council meets tonight at 7 at Gearhart City Hall, 698 Pacific Way.

Parking: New officer will also provide tourist assistance, information

Continued from Page 1A

Along with issuing parking citations, the community outreach officer will also provide tourist assistance and information. The downtown association, which will hire the officer, will be expected to compile annual reports documenting the results.

Other cities have privatized parking enforcement. Johnston explained that Astoria Police have had difficulty attracting enforcement officers because of the low pay and the background checks necessary for unrestricted access to police headquarters.

Parking enforcement officers are often subjected to backlash from angry drivers, an unfortunate reality for police, and a potential headache for downtown merchants.

"If we have civilians issuing parking citations, we have to let the public know that they are authorized to do that," City Councilor Drew Herzig said.

Park: 'We are looking at moving them from students to stewards'

Continued from Page 1A

desk, we've been able to reach more than 1,000 fourth-graders and their families through this program. We're excited to continue."

Next generation

Every Kid in a Park launched last year as part of the National Park Service centennial. The program is considered a critical component to the park service's goal of inspiring the next generation of park-goers.

Marcus Koenen, interim superintendant at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, said the National Park Service was so pleased with the success and popularity of the program that it was brought back for a second year and is expected to be an annual offering.

Fourth grade was targeted as a time when students begin to learn about history and explore the outdoors. For local students, fourth grade is usually their first time learning about Lewis and Clark.

"Fourth grade is that age where kids are starting to look outside and learn more about external experiences," Koenen said. "It's a good age to encourage them to come to national parks."

Lewis and Clark National Historical Park

A fourth-grader writes with a quill pen at Fort Clatsop during an education program.

On average, Lewis and Clark National Historical Park hosts more than 2,000 fourth-grade students annually for educational programs.

The park leads more than 9,000 students of all grades through various programs each year.

'Students to stewards'

Cathy Peterson, the park's education program coordinator, said Lewis and Clark National Historical Park has regularly attracted fourth-graders, even before Every Kid in a Park.

Fourth-grade classes are invited on field trips for educational programs such as, Class of Discovery and Life at the Fort. Children are also invited to become Junior Rangers or take the self-guided tour, Diligent Pursuit.

Out of class, fourth-graders are welcome to paddle the river or participate in fun runs such as the upcoming South Slough Scramble

"We find fourth-grade students, children 9 to 11, are really interested in looking at the world around them," Peterson said. "They are ready to go out and see the world."

Each fourth-grader, including home-schooled students, that visited the park last year was offered a free Every Kid in a Park pass, resulting in rangers giving out more than 1,000 free passes.

As the program continues each year, eventually after 12 years, every school-aged child in the United States will have had the chance to visit their public lands for free.

"We are looking at moving them from students to stewards," Peterson said.

Whales: Fishing gear entanglement is a threat

Continued from Page 1A

federal laws, including the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Vessels will continue to have to stay a specific distance away from humpback whales in Hawaii and Alaska waters.

A Hawaii fishermen's group that petitioned for delisting three years ago said it was happy with the decision.

"We just saw a lot of whales. So we thought this is a success in ocean management and we wanted to point that out to the world — that things are good with whales in Hawaii," said Phil Fernandez, president of the Hawaii Fishermen's Alliance for Conservation and Tradition.

An estimated 11,000 humpback whales breed in Hawaii waters each winter and migrate to Alaska to feed during the summer, the fisheries service said.

But an environmentalist group said the protections should stay in place.

"These whales face several significant and growing threats, including entanglement in fishing gear, so ending protections now is a step in the wrong direction," Kristen Monsell, an attorney with the Center for Biological Diversity, said in a statement.

Humpbacks that breed in Central America in the winter and feed off California and the Pacific Northwest in the summer are among those that will remain on the endangered list.

Marta Nammack, the fisheries service's Endangered Species Act listing coordinator, said that's because the population is estimated at only about 400 whales. These whales also face threats from vessel collisions and getting entangled in fishing gear, she said.

Whales that breed off Mexico and feed off California, the Pacific Northwest and Alaska will be listed as threatened. There are about 3,200 of the whales in this group, which is only about half of what scientists previously thought, Nammack said. The whales also face fishing gear entanglement threats.

The different classifications mean that Alaska's whales will be a mix.

In addition to whales that breed in Hawaii and Mexico, Alaska also gets whales that spend the winter in waters around Okinawa and the Philippines. These whales, called the Western North Pacific population, are endangered. They number only about 1,000 and faces threats from energy exploration and development, whaling and fishing gear entanglements, Nammack said.

Humpback whales are also found along eastern coasts of the U.S. and Canada. These whales, which winter in the West Indies, are not being listed as endangered. They number about 10,000, the fisheries service said.

To advertise contact:
LISA CADONAU at **503-325-3211** or **lcadonau@dailyastorian.com**
BRANDY STEWART at **503-738-7561** or **bstewart@dailyastorian.com**

Publishes: Sept. 16, 2016
Publication is online at all of our websites via e-edition
Inserted in: The Daily Astorian and Chinook Observer

clatsop community college presents its 3rd annual

Live Life to the Fullest

Saturday, Sept. 10, 2016e, 8:30am-4pm

Clatsop Community College, Columbia Hall

Keynote address from Jill Harding from Lewis & Clark NHP

"Hey Doc - What's Up?" Q&A with health providers and experts on aging

18 Informative Breakout Sessions:

- Advocating for Your Own Health
- Mindfulness & Life Coaching Tips
- Estate Planning
- Educational & Volunteer Opportunities
- Frauds & Scams
- Disaster Prep/Stormy Weather
- AARP: Disrupt Aging Discussion
- Nutrition for the Sunrise Years
- Seniors on the Move with Travel
- Transitioning into Retirement
- County Events Extraordinaire
- Genealogy at your Fingertips
- Hiking on the North Coast
- Posture Analysis/Yoga
- Personal Technology
- A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns about Falls
- Veteran's Benefits/Social Security/ Medicare/Medicaid
- Intro to Acupuncture & Alternative Medicine

Free flu shots while supplies last, sponsored by Family Care Health

Register by Sept. 1 Contact Evy at 503-338-2566 or eberger@clatsopcc.edu

Clatsop Community College · Columbia Memorial Hospital · NWSDS · Exploring New Concepts Of Retirement Education ENCORE Clatsop Community College · PROVIDENCE Seaside Hospital

Clatsop Community College is an affirmative action, equal opportunity institution. ADA Accessible.