

BEST CHEAP DATE

The Beach

Runner-up:

Columbian Theater, Astoria

Honorable Mention:

Second Saturday Art Walk, Astoria



PHOTO BY DWIGHT CASWELL
A colorful sunset at Indian Beach in Ecola State Park.

caressed her shapely dunes. I gave her the news, "Beach, once again Coast Weekend readers have decided that you are the Best Cheap Date."

For a moment a cloud veiled the sun and a look crossed the popular figure's face. She seemed wistful and perhaps peeved. "Again?" she asked and then, resignedly, "Again."

"It's a great honor, Beach."

"It's just that people are so fickle. Last year I was Best Place for a Picnic. Now I'm back to being just another cheap date. It's not my fault we had a wet summer. Go talk to Sky."

"But you're the Best Cheap Date."

"Is that any better, being really good but cheap?" The cloud darkened.

"Maybe it's the economy," I suggested. "Perhaps young people are looking for a frugal alternative to \$10 cocktails." The cloud passed, and Beach brightened. "Or maybe it's demographics," I continued. "A lot of young people are moving here from places like Portland, where beaches are covered in goose poop."

"More young people. Yes, I have noticed more surfboards lately." She positively glowed. "I like the sound of that."

"And what happens to young people?" I asked.

"They have a very good time. Sunning, surfing, running and playing frisbee with their dogs. Walking hand-in-hand. And eating organic lunches from the co-op and drinking craft beer."

"What I mean, Beach," I said, "is that young people fall in love and get married and have children and get more dogs, and then what happens?"

"I know! They visit me and we have family picnics!" A great gust of wind blew sand all about. "I like it! I like it!"

By DWIGHT CASWELL

It was an unseasonably warm day when I last spoke with the object of my affections. I watched a flight of pelicans go by, and as I sat on a log by her side gulls drew near, looking for hand-outs. She reclined gracefully, her toes splashing in the foam and her back against the wooded cliffs. A gentle breeze stirred the grass and

BEST GARDEN CENTER

Brim's Farm & Garden

Astoria, Oregon

Runner-up: Dennis' 7 Dees, Seaside

Honorable Mention: Basket Case Greenhouse, Long Beach, Washington

By LYNETTE RAE MCADAMS



PHOTO BY LYNETTE RAE MCADAMS
Even in the depths of winter, the greenhouse at Brim's is full of texture and color.

varieties that speak to the company's 60-plus years of gardening on the coast. When spring rolls around, stop in to avail yourself of their wide selection of seeds (all non-GMO), as well as flower and vegetable starts in 4-inch pots or 6-pack



PHOTO BY LYNETTE RAE MCADAMS

Daniel Lacy, a crewmember at Brim's Farm and Garden, shows off his excellent customer care skills by insisting on carry-out service for a 50-pound bag of goat feed.

containers, and all the tools you'll need to get going. (There's even a special section in small sizes for kids.)

Also a one-stop spot for farmers, Brim's takes pride in carrying high-quality fencing, food and supplies for almost any animal you could think of keeping, including horses, cows, llamas, goats, pigs and alpacas. Small animals aren't forgotten either, with specialty fare for rabbits, guinea pigs, chinchillas and more than a few feathered friends. Dog

and cat lovers will appreciate the enormous selection of food, toys and treats, and anyone with a backyard flock will delight in all the provisions for poultry — chief among them the fresh batches of baby chicks and turkeys that arrive each year with the promise of spring.

Whatever you need for your farm or garden, there's a good chance Brim's has it, and best of all, you can be sure it will always come with friendly service and advice you can trust.



We Thank

our community for voting Street 14 Cafe winners in the following top categories:

- Best Customer Service
- Andrew Catalano, Best Chef
- Best Coffee

We are also thrilled and thank you for voting us as one of your Favorite Bakeries and Breakfast Spots, Kat Zaro as one of your Favorite Baristas, and Allyx O'Connor as one of your Favorite Servers!

NEW Hours: 6:30 to 4pm daily

Dinner Thursday through Saturday 5 to 9pm

Learn more at www.street14cafe.com

Find us on Facebook: [facebook.com/street14astoria](https://www.facebook.com/street14astoria)
503-325-5511

Local, Handcrafted, Seasonal

1410 Commercial Street | Astoria

annual January Sale

Sale on the almost ENTIRE STORE!

Hurry in for Best Selection

January
22-30

30%
OFF

January
31st

35%
OFF

One day only!

Up to
75%
OFF

Clearance
Items

FINNWARE

Excludes food, consignments, layaway. Limited to stock on hand.

(503)325-5720 • 1-800-851-FINN • 1116 Commercial • Astoria