

# Council: 'Parks is something we don't really want to touch'

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Though she said she appreciates the modifications made to the ordinance — including a provision that requires its impact to be evaluated after one year — she argued that residents in medium- and high-density residential zones should be notified that an ADU may crop up in their neighborhoods.

The council's ruling can be appealed to the state Land Use Board of Appeals.

## Parks and trees

In other business:

• Mayor Arline LaMear, during councilor reports, defended the city's decision to slash Parks and Recreation Department programs and look into selling Birch Field & Park next fiscal year because of budget constraints.

At a recent council work session, Parks and Recreation Director Angela Cosby and City Manager Brett Estes told the council that deep cuts would happen under the proposed budget. The city expects a department shortfall of more than \$100,000 — due, in part, to a decision not to rely on a year-end transfer of funds into

the parks budget as a safety cushion.

"Parks is something we don't really want to touch," LaMear said, "but, on the other hand, we have to remain within our budget."

The parks department, over the years, has received a smaller percentage of general fund money while park sites and programs have increased, resulting in high staff workload and some poorly maintained parkland.

The council is considering several options — including a lodging tax increase, an operations levy, a food and beverage tax and a utility fee on water and sewer rates — to bring the parks budget up to sustainable levels.

• The council awarded Hampton Tree Farms a contract to carry out the ridge line combo harvest, a commercial timber-thinning project through 52 acres of Bear Creek watershed east of Astoria planned for this summer.

The city anticipates the proposed harvest to take in more than \$224,000 in gross revenue and about \$190,000 in net revenue, which will go into the capital improvement fund.



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Astoria allows expansion of accessory dwelling units.

# The Ship Inn: Restaurant has been recognized for its English cuisine

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## Expat love

Stokeld and her husband, who are from Cornwall, England, in the south and Yorkshire in the north, met in San Francisco. She was a secretary and Fenton worked with two of his brothers at Pickwick British Meat Pie and Sausage Co., supplying English pubs. The two married in 1968 and have two daughters and a son, all living in the Pacific Northwest.

"We figured we would never have met in England, ever," she said of the chance meeting in the U.S. "We were worlds apart. North of England and south of England are almost like two separate entities."

When the couple visited a friend in Astoria, Stokeld said her husband noticed the dearth of local restaurants. They moved north, and Fenton went to work initially for Rae Goforth's Fiddler's Green, an Irish restaurant in what later became Cafe Uniontown. The couple later started their first restaurant, Pickwick Fish & Chips, in Seaside.

"In Seaside, in those days, everything closed on Labor Day," she said. "It was a real summer resort. That was the season, then everything closed down. So this opportunity came up, and its year-round in Astoria."

Stokeld said the owner of what was then the Mermaid



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

A conceptual drawing shows the hotel and marina Fenton Stokeld had imagined around The Ship Inn. Rumors are swirling about whether the property around the restaurant could become part of hotel under new owner Mark Hollander.

Tavern wasn't happy with the bar's reputation, and offered the couple a chance.

## A taste of England

The Ship Inn opened June 7, 1974. Over the years, the restaurant has become locally and nationally recognized for its English fare such as Cornish pasties, fish and chips, bangers and mash, and steak and kidney pies.

"My husband insisted, you always have to have top quality and people will come back," Stokeld said.

Behind the bar at the restaurant is album after album full of photos from Halloween, Christmas and other parties. Stokeld said those memories, and the innumerable customers and employees behind them throughout the years, are what

she will miss most.

"This is kind of my social life," she said. "I spend so much time down here chatting with the customers."

Stokeld said she's going to miss the sunsets from the dining room of her restaurant, but is excited to continue volunteering and experience Astoria like a business owner often can't.

"You don't participate in all the events, because you're always at work," she said. "Like different shows they have on. I really want to do (Second Saturday) Art Walk. I've never done that."

"Sometimes I go downtown and there's been a business there for two years, and I've never seen it before. I think I'm going to wander around a lot, and check everything out."

# Gun bills: Two proposed by Gov. Kate Brown, would close several gun purchase loopholes

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members in desperation," said state Sen. Brian Boquist, R-Dallas.

Oregon has one of the highest suicide rates in the nation, including among veterans, Boquist said.

Boquist's son, Seth Sprague, a 31-year-old U.S. Navy veteran, used a firearm to commit suicide last year. The tragedy spurred Boquist to work with Senate Majority Ginny Burdick, D-Portland, to design legislation that could help families intervene when a loved one threatens to take their own life. The bill is modeled after a measure voters approved last year in Washington state.

## Opposition

The National Rifle Association and local gun rights advocates are opposed to the bill.

"This bill allows for a protective order to take away your Second Amendment rights, not because of a criminal conviction or mental health adjudication but based on third-party allegations, using an evidentiary standard that falls far below what is normally required for removing a firearm," said Keely Hopkins, the NRA's Oregon liaison.

The bill also does nothing to stop someone from killing themselves in some other way or to provide treatment for the individual, Hopkins said.

Yuille knows the exact date her father, Michael Passalacqua of Milwaukie, went to a gun shop and bought the firearm he used to kill himself. She found a receipt dated July 18, 2016, after his death.

"If I had known that a tool like the extreme risk protection order was available I would have used it, and my dad probably wouldn't have been able to go buy a gun that day," Yuille testified Monday during a hearing on the bill in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

## One of three bills

The bill is one of three evoking strong emotions from supporters and opponents.

Two other bills, proposed by Gov. Kate Brown, would close several gun purchase loopholes and study reasons for gun-purchase denials.

One bill closes the so-called "Charleston" loophole that allows applicants to buy a gun within three days regardless of whether Oregon State Police has completed a mandatory background check on the buyer. Another bill bans people who have stalking con-

victions or boyfriends who have domestic violence convictions from having a gun.

"It is a common sense, life-saving bill that will protect Oregon's women and children by closing the boyfriend loophole, preventing convicted stalkers from buying and possessing guns and keeping guns out of the wrong hands by closing the Charleston loophole," Brown testified.

Opponents and supporters of the bills filled a meeting room and three overflow rooms to testify on the bill. Signs posted around the Capitol reminded visitors no guns are permitted in the building without a concealed handgun permit, and Oregon State Police had visibly enhanced security around the building.

Due to a scheduling error, the bills will have to be renamed and sent to the Rules Committee, according to a report by the Register Guard. Today is a deadline for legislation. Anything that has not been passed out of a legislative committee by the end of the day is considered dead with exceptions for bills out of rules and revenue committees.

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# TV LISTINGS

Evening listings  
TUESDAY

Table with columns for time slots (6 PM to 11:30 PM) and various TV programs like KATU News, Jeopardy!, Wheel of Fortune, The Middle, Am. Housewife, Fresh Off-Boat, Imaginary, Agents of SHIELD, etc.