



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Leroy Olvey's property in Astoria's Alderbrook neighborhood is covered in signs and debris. After years of trying to get him to clean up his property and address concerns about his house, the city is seeking to sell the property through a public auction process if Olvey doesn't pay \$58,000 in fines.

THE LAST WORD

CITY TO TAKE ACTION ON ALDERBROOK PROPERTY

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

The first thing you notice about Leroy Olvey's house in Alderbrook is the words. The property is drowning in them.

There are signs everywhere: freestanding in the yard, tacked to the sides of a dilapidated trailer, nailed to the outer walls of the weather-beaten house, arranged in rows and taped to a fence. One particularly enormous sign hangs over the front porch and states in all-capital red-and-yellow letters: "THE CITY OF ASTORIA DESTROYED MY PROPERTY."

The signs are a recent addition to a Birch Street property the city has long considered derelict and that neighbors for the past 20 years have called a nuisance, a safety hazard and a junkyard.

For more than a decade, the city has tried to get 77-year-old Olvey to address issues at his property — the trash piling up inside and outside the house, the old, abandoned cars, the overgrown yard. Officials tried warnings and citations and, in the past two years, Municipal Court fines totaling \$58,000. Now, the end is near.

On Monday, the Astoria City Council unanimously decided to give City Attorney Blair Henningsgaard permission to take the first steps in a lien foreclosure process that — if Olvey doesn't address the fines against him — will result in a public auction of his property.

Violations

This is a process the city has pursued before, most famously against properties owned by the Flavel family downtown. The derelict building ordinance enables the city to take steps against blight.

"This tool is a fairly substantial tool," said City Manager Brett Estes, "and we want to be able to work with people, be able to make things happen."

"We're not looking for fees or fines,"



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Cars, rusting and overgrown with plants, are one of the city's many concerns when it comes to Olvey's property.

'We're not looking for fees or fines. We're looking for the place to be cleaned up.'

Brett Estes
city manager

he said. "We're looking for the place to be cleaned up."

Enforcement at Olvey's property has happened in fits and starts, complicated by fluctuating staff levels in city departments and Olvey's own sporadic bouts of compliance then contention. In recent years, Olvey stopped making any effort to comply with the city's requests.

"The owner has failed in each case to correct the violations or respond to the written notices sent both (through) cer-

tified and regular U.S. mail," Astoria's Community Development Director Kevin Cronin wrote in a memo to the City Council. "Staff has tried repeatedly to visit the owner at his known residence over the last two years."

"Progress has been made on other nuisance properties in this neighborhood," the memo continued, "but the Olvey case is outstanding for its lack of progress."

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Man stabbed after fight in Astoria

Attack happened near Doughboy Monument

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

A Washington state man was stabbed Monday night after a fight near the Doughboy Monument in Uniontown.

Witnesses said a group of about 10 people who appeared to be transients had gathered behind the monument when a man started throwing punches and kicking.

Kasey Burgess, 28, of Seaside, and Brian Jantes, 38, of Warrenton, who were attending a baby shower at the El Tapatio restaurant, said they ran outside to help. Many from the group began to flee.

But witnesses said a woman pulled a large knife out of her handbag and handed it to the man who was the aggressor in the fight. The man grabbed the knife, approached the man he had been attacking, and quickly stabbed the man near his stomach.

"I'm calling the police," Jantes said she told the attacker. "Get your hands off him!"

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Astoria rethinks parks fee

City Council will discuss options in July

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

The Astoria City Council is reconsidering details of a proposed fee intended to raise money for the city's Parks and Recreation Department, seeking a solution that will more evenly distribute the cost across the community.

Instead of charging residential water customers \$3 per water meter per month, councilors at a meeting Monday night asked city staff

to look into what it would take to charge \$3 per unit. Residents and city staff had pointed out that there is a mix of units in the city, some of which have multiple families using a single meter. Residents who commented at the meeting say charging per unit would be more equitable.

Ultimately a per unit charge is expected to raise more money — the per meter charge would raise an estimated \$117,000 a year — but City Manager Brett Estes said it would also take more time to put in place. City staff would need to conduct a thorough audit of

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Timed parking delayed in Cannon Beach

Business owners disgruntled over plan

By BRENN A VISSER
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — Timed parking in Cannon Beach has been put on hold after complaints from the community.

The original plan approved by the City Council was to enforce a three-hour parking limit over the summer on Hemlock Street between First and Third streets, as well as on First through Third between Hemlock and Spruce streets.

The pilot area was chosen after a parking study surveyed the two busiest days of spring break, and found that Hemlock is the first to fill up. The restric-

tion would help the city reach its goal of creating 50 new spots by the end of 2018.

While some business owners welcome the turnover, others worry that timed parking will adversely affect parking for employees and will rush customers.

Parking petition

Cannon Beach Police Chief Jason Schermerhorn said the city decided to postpone installing signs and enforcing the rule until it is discussed again at the July 10 City Council meeting.

"There's been a lot of citizens upset by it," said Schermerhorn, who will soon be the interim city manager. "(City councilors) are going to give citizens an



Brenna Visser/The Daily Astorian

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Cannon Beach has postponed a pilot program on timed parking downtown.

