



Chuck Waddell gets ready to install one of 34 solar panels on the roof of Alderbrook Station in Astoria in late August. According to City Planner Nancy Ferber, the city sees few applications for similar projects.

Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Solar: 'It was like a lightbulb went on'

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In his role as an architect, he had helped clients get set up with solar power and had long wanted to do it for himself. "But I always thought it was out of reach," he said.

Then, as he watched more and more state and federal tax incentives dry up or expire, he decided to take the leap and install panels this year while he still could take advantage of some of the programs available.

The panels installed on Doss' building are positioned so as to not impact the overall appearance of the building — an important point to Doss and city staff who reviewed his application. He is also using a special kind of solar panel, designed to take advantage of any light reflecting back off of Alderbrook Station's white roof. With this design, Doss is getting some degree of solar power even in the middle of one of Astoria's frequent cloudy days. It is likely he could surpass the 11.2 kilowatt mark, even in less-than-ideal weather, he said.

Incentives

Tussing, a Clatsop County native who graduated from Knappa High School, is a solar



Eddie Phillips, left, and Chuck Waddell, right, with Precision Heating and Indoor Air Quality of Warrenton secure themselves to the roof of Alderbrook Station in Astoria as they install solar panels for a client.

convert now, but he, too, first installed solar panels on his own home purely because of the incentives available at the time. He remembers when he finished installing the panels, hit the switch and went to his power meter to see what, if any, changes occurred.

In his telling, he stood

there, watching the meter. It wasn't even slowing down.

"Oh, well," he thought. Then he looked back at the meter. It stopped. Then it started going in reverse.

"And I'll tell you, when that meter started going backwards, it was like a lightbulb went on," Tussing said.

In addition to heating and cooling systems, his company now installs solar panels in Washington state's Pacific County as well as Clatsop County. He said he is a "one man band," singing the praises of solar energy.

Jason Dunsmoor, chief of engineering operations for the Pacific County Public Utility District, estimated that more than half of the 27 customers there who have solar power on their accounts signed on in the last two years because they feared certain incentive programs were going to expire. The Washington State Legislature, however, recently passed a bill to replace an old incentives program with a new one.

As incentives disappear in Oregon, however, Tussing fears solar installations could be a harder sell. But he has faith in the evolving nature of the technology and believes that battery innovations, power or energy storage are the future of solar.

Seaside: Final report expected next March

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"We think that the study will provide a great deal of information for the governing bodies to be able to adequately analyze the issues we face as far as workforce housing is concerned in Clatsop County," City Manager Mark Winstanley said Monday. "It's not an issue for individual cities, it is an issue for all of the areas of Clatsop County."

He said a study that embraces the entire county "would be entirely appropriate."

"We think this would be a very good way to take a look at this problem," Winstanley said.

"I think \$10,000 is a bargain for that," Mayor Jay Barber said.

Development fees

The city reviewed a proposal from the FCS Group to review the city's water, wastewater and parks system development charges.

According to Winstanley, FCS Group last reviewed and updated the system development charges in 2008.

System development charges are sometimes cited by developers as barriers to affordable housing in the community.

A 2015 Clatsop County "housing huddle" identified

high system development charges as an impediment to Seaside's housing growth.

Before abandoning plans for 80-homes on a 15-acre parcel known as Blue Heron, property owner Max Ritchie said one of the reasons for the huge unmet need of workforce housing in Seaside is that the high cost of system development charges deters builders from taking on projects.

"With such a huge demand for housing, I think the city should enact a temporary waiver of system development fees to encourage builders to meet the housing need," Ritchie said in 2016.

The new study will conduct an inventory of existing fixed assets, debt service schedules and ordinances.

The inventory will be followed by policy review and technical analysis. The analysis will calculate the "improvement fee" portion of each system development charge and a recommended allocation approach.

Councilors unanimously voted to move forward with the proposal.

With a budget slightly above \$32,000, data collection and analysis will take about 90 days to complete. A final report will be delivered to the City Council next March.



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Seaside is taking steps to address a housing shortage.

Lawsuit: Argues biological opinion, proposed flood plain rules are based on inadequate analysis

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than 250 cities and counties in exchange for their adopting flood plain regulations, was sued by environmental groups in 2009. The groups claimed the flood insurance program endangered the habitat of endangered salmon, steelhead and southern resident killer whales.

A settlement required FEMA to consult with the fisheries service on alternative practices to bring the flood insurance program in line, and to propose changes to better protect endangered species and their habitat. The proposed alternatives would

limit development in flood- and erosion-prone areas, further protect salmon-bearing surface waters from development, enhance mapping and identification of flood- and erosion-prone areas, use local governmental help track flood plain development and enhance enforcement.

Lawyers for Oregonians for Floodplain Protection argue the biological opinion and proposed flood plain rules are based on inadequate analysis, would restrict development and have bypassed the public rule-making process. Their lawsuit seeks an injunction against the fisheries service to withdraw the opinion

and suspend implementation of the alternatives until after a public rule-making process and a review under the National Environmental Policy Act.

Lawyers for the agencies argue that the plaintiffs lack sufficient facts to determine whether the government's actions have caused the alleged harm, and thus lack standing for a lawsuit.

"Plaintiffs' claims against FEMA must also be dismissed based on principles of ripeness and finality as FEMA has not undertaken a final agency action nor committed to a major federal action," the response said.

DONNA LYNN QUASHNICK (HAGERT)

Donna Lynn Quashnick (Hagert), 58, died peacefully on Sept. 4, 2017. She was born July 27, 1959 at the Patuxent River Naval Air Station in the hospital in Lexington Park, MD. to Curve and Shirley Hagert, who survive her, in Astoria, OR.

Donna was part of a proud Coast Guard family growing up. Throughout her childhood, Donna and her family lived in several east and west coast communities. The family settled in Astoria in 1974. Donna graduated from Astoria High School in 1977.

Donna married her best friend and soulmate Richard Quashnick on July 2, 1982. The couple honeymooned on a fishing trip to Kenai, Alaska. This landmark trip began her 35 year legacy of "boat mom"; always taking care of captain and crew.

Donna, was known as "Nanna", will be remembered for her generosity, laughter, kindness, and her loyalty. Her life was spent surrounded by friends and family always having a good time. Donna never missed an opportunity to help those in need, finding a way to take care of others was her specialty. She loved all children and took as many as she could under her wing, welcoming them into her "Nanna family". Her greatest joy in life was spoiling

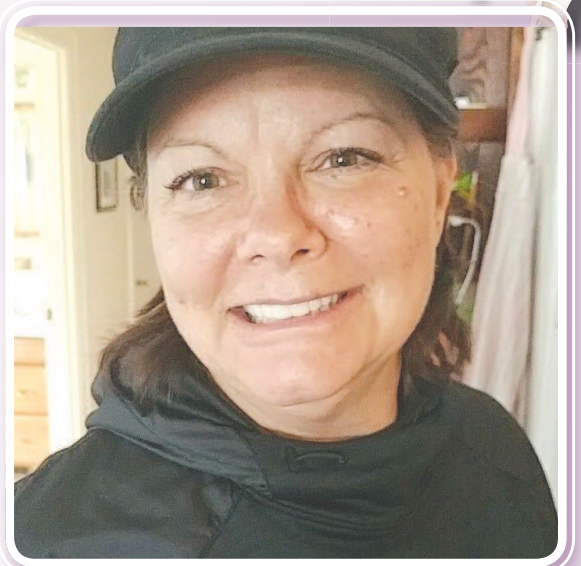
and spending time with her grandchildren. She will forever hold a special place in the hearts of those who were blessed to know her.

She is preceded in death by her grandparents, including her beloved "Nanna" Aunt Sally; Uncles Bill and Paul; son-in-law David; grandson Landen, and nephew Jason.

She is survived by her husband, Rick Quashnick and the six children between them; Julia (Chris), Wendy (Greg), Tabatha (Robert), Tonya (Jesse), Tara, and Kingston "Mo". Nine grandchildren; Amanda, Corey, Riley, Christopher, Mason, Logan, Beau, Austin and MeiLani. Three sisters; Cheryl (Brent), her twin Denise (Mark) and Patrice (Kenneth), and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

A celebration of life is to be held on September 23, 2017, at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds at 4 p.m.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, that donations be made to Nanna's favorite charity; Deep Sea Fisherman's Benefit Fund
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