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ONE DOLLAR



The ceiling at Cannon Beach City Hall has been known to leak.

Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

## Astoria bans camping in the woods

City hopes to work with the homeless

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
*The Daily Astorian*

It is now illegal to camp in the woods around Astoria, but police say they don't plan to start asking the estimated 30 homeless people living in the woods to move any time soon.

The City Council on Monday night closed a loophole in the city's "no camping" rule, which banned camping in a variety of public areas like parks and parking lots but neglected to mention city forestland.

Advocates for the homeless, and the homeless themselves, have concerns about what will happen when police do begin to move people out of the woods.

"There's a lot of barriers that keep people out there," said John Nordquist, who lives in a tent in the woods. "I'd say most of them don't want to be out there. Some of them like it, some of them enjoy it. The ones that do are going to go deeper into the woods. That's the plan. ... It's not going to go away just because an ordinance is passed."

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## Cannon Beach divided over location of new City Hall

City hopes for a May bond

By BRENNA VISSER  
*The Daily Astorian*

**C**ANNON BEACH — The City Council wants to ask voters in May to approve a bond that would pay for a new City Hall.

In a work session last week, city councilors shared their vision of what they would like to see: More flexible work spaces. Better technology. Environmentally sustainable systems. Seismically safe construction.

But on one critical detail, the council remains divided — where exactly to put it.

The council is considering rebuilding City Hall on Gower Street or building on the 55-acre undeveloped property known as South Wind that sits above the tsunami inundation zone. The decision could mean the difference of millions of dollars on the project's price tag or the chance to usher in the first stages of development on a property meant to keep critical services above water.

To help decide, SRG, a Portland-based architecture firm, will evaluate the benefits and downsides of each location, as well as the estimated cost, in a report expected to be published in December.

Issues surrounding City Hall have been documented for more than a decade.

Multiple renovation plans to fix problems with air ventilation and structural defects have been drawn up, but shelved due to high costs and lack of feasibility.

Conversations about replacing City Hall resurfaced at the urging of City Manager Bruce St. Denis, who has concerns

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Damage can be seen to the foundation of City Hall in Cannon Beach.



Bowls are set up at Cannon Beach City Hall to collect water dripping from the ceiling.

## Gearhart cool to rezoning a parcel for new housing

A conversion from agricultural to residential

By R.J. MARX  
*The Daily Astorian*

**GEARHART** — Objections from neighbors and concerns from the Planning Commission led to a recommendation against the rezoning of a nearly 30-acre property in Gearhart eyed for higher-density housing.

Residents said the property is prone to flooding, unable to handle additional traffic and lacks essential services.

"You want to make your \$2.5 million, walk away and leave everybody else with the ramifications," Mary Chandler, who lives on McCormick Gardens Road, said at Thursday's meeting.

Planning Commissioner Terry Graff echoed the concerns.

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## Hey, no parking, you guys!

City gets tough near the Goonies house

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
*The Daily Astorian*

Astoria hopes a \$100 fine will curb parking and traffic issues near the Goonies house in Uppertown.

The City Council held a first reading of an ordinance Monday night to modify city code and enhance the fees people will have to pay if they violate parking rules in the neighborhood. City councilors will hold a second reading and officially adopt the ordinance at a meeting in November.

The city has already posted a number of signs — "No Stopping," "No Parking" — in the area with only a moderate level of compli-

ance, according to City Manager Brett Estes and Police Chief Geoff Spalding.

Spalding, after meeting with neighbors this month, does not plan to extend the existing signage. Instead, he proposed the addition of another sign: "Enhanced Fine Zone — \$100 Fine."

The neighborhood has long been a draw to tourists hoping for a glimpse of the house featured in the 1985 cult classic, "The Goonies."

Parking problems reached their height when the Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce staged a celebration of the film's 30th anniversary in 2015. The iconic house saw thousands of visitors almost every day that summer. A few months after the celebration, the city and the chamber actively tried to keep fans away from the house and homemade signs bloomed



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Parking and traffic issues have plagued the Uppertown neighborhood that is home to the Goonies house.

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