

# THE DAILY ASTORIAN



Collin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

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## SIGN OF THE SEASON



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Higher rates are driven by new regulations in China on recycling imports.

## Garbage rates will go up in Astoria

Expected increase of \$1.50 a month

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
The Daily Astorian

Garbage rates are going up in Astoria because of the growing cost of recycling.

The average ratepayer can expect to see an increase of just over \$1.50 to their bill each

month after the City Council on Monday approved a request by Recology Western Oregon to raise the rates beginning in January.

The request revises what the company had proposed at a rate review in May.

China, once a major purchaser of recycled material from the United States, passed new regulations on imports earlier this year, a major blow to U.S. garbage companies' profits.

Across Oregon, some rate-

payers saw substantial increases almost immediately. But not in Astoria.

In May, Carl Peters, general manager for Recology, had requested a slight increase for one-time use of a dumpster, but said there were no major rate increases because of China's actions on the horizon.

The city had just also approved a bump in rates to take on curbside collection of glass and compost and the company, mindful of these changes, did

not request a rate increase last year. Instead, Recology looked into other measures to save on costs.

Now, like other companies across the country, Recology has seen the costs of handling recyclable materials only continue to climb. These costs have pushed the company outside the limits of an operating ratio established in a franchise agreement with Astoria.

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## Astoria adopts new homestay lodging license

Some hosts complain fees are too steep

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
The Daily Astorian

Astoria will require hosts of Airbnb-type vacation rentals to pay for a new city license if they want to stay in business.

The City Council adopted the new licensing process Monday night amid outcry from several hosts who said the fees the city plans to impose are too steep.

Some said the income they earn by offering homestay lodging helps them stay in their homes. They feel they provide a valuable service by giving visitors a variety of lodging options and promoting local businesses.

But Astoria, like other cities across Oregon and the United States, has struggled with how to manage short-term rentals.

Not all of the rentals

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Astoria will fill a vacant east side council seat by appointment

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available in Astoria pay the required lodging tax or operate under the city's guidelines, which allow hosts to only rent out one to two bedrooms in homes they own and occupy.

City Councilors Zetty Nemlowill and Cindy Price believe homestay lodging takes away long-term housing from residents, impacts the market rate of long-term rentals and changes the character of neighborhoods.

But Mayor Arline LaMear has long maintained that homestay lodging is an important option for seniors, who might otherwise struggle to afford to maintain the large older homes common in Astoria.

Under the new permit, a homestay lodging license

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## Local family buys Knappa restaurant property



The Daily Astorian

A Knappa property once considered for a Dollar General store has been bought by a local family who has expressed interest in an RV park or laundromat.

Lot was eyed for another Dollar General

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

KNAPPA — A local family has purchased the property in Knappa once proposed for a Dollar General store, with ideas for a laundromat or an RV park.

The lot at the southeast corner of U.S. Highway 30 and Hillcrest Loop was recently sold by Rod Zweber to Sandhu & Brar, a company owned by

Tek Sandhu, Govrdan Singh and Gurdev Singh.

The property, most recently the Hwy 30 Roadhouse, has hosted several restaurants but has long sat vacant.

Cross Development had applied to build a 9,100-square-foot store at the site for Dollar General, more than twice the size of what is usually allowed in Clatsop County's Rural Community Commercial — Light Industrial zones. They argued the larger store size was necessary to create an economy of scale.

County staff and planning commissioners found a larger Dollar General would

fail to meet several criteria in the zones, such as supporting existing businesses, contributing to the community's identity and providing necessary services for the surrounding community. The proposal was denied by the county Board of Commissioners in October and not appealed.

Sundeep Sandhu, Tek Sandhu's son, said the family doesn't have any immediate plans for the property, which sits across the highway from their convenience store and Chevron gas station, Knappa Market. The family owns similar markets

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