

## DEAR ABBY

Write to Dear Abby online at [dearabby.com](http://dearabby.com) or by mail at P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069



**Dear Abby:** I've been in the retail business for 12 years; my husband and I own it. A customer moved here a few months ago. He's retired and lives with his wife, daughter and grandchild. He's bored and doesn't want to be around his family, so he has started spending every day in our store, wasting our time.

He bothers customers with his stories and traps them for hours at a time. He has purchased some items, so he is buying from us. But I can tell he just wants a place to hang out. He is loud and intrudes into other people's conversations when they are at the counters. He has also taken a liking to one employee who works Saturdays and has started spending four to five hours every Saturday coming in and trying to make conversation about anything.

I have never had to deal with this kind of customer. I don't know how to tell him he can't hang out at our store. He's basically using us as an outlet to talk to people and keep himself out of his house. Please help. I want to say it in a nice way, but I think any way is going to hurt his feelings.

— *Unpleasant Situation*

**Dear Unpleasant:** You seem to be a compassionate person. Check out what services are available for seniors in your area. Then explain to the customer that while you appreciate his business, you and your employees have work to do, limited time to do it and cannot socialize with him. Then suggest some places where he can spend time, volunteer, etc.

**Dear Readers:** A group of

distinguished psychiatrists, the Group for the Advancement of Psychiatry (GAP), needs help from some of you. They are seeking to understand how faith identity — being spiritual, religious, spiritual but not religious, or neither religious nor spiritual — positively or negatively impacts mental health and well-being. Below is the URL to an online survey, which will take approximately 10 to 15 minutes to complete. The questions address the following topics:

- Do you identify as religious, spiritual, both or neither?
- What religious and/or spiritual practices do you participate in, if any?
- What are your current levels of anxiety, and what is your current mood?

Readers, your input is important. Understanding your beliefs, including how they affect your mental health, could benefit individuals who need help and haven't gotten it. To participate in this ANONYMOUS survey, you must be 18 years of age or older. The URL below will direct you to the online survey. For those who have no internet access but would like to participate, please send a letter to:

GAP Religion/Spirituality Survey  
P.O. Box 570218  
Dallas, TX 75357-0218  
URL: [yalesurvey.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8G4jpAMkF2BDLlb](http://yalesurvey.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8G4jpAMkF2BDLlb)

Thank you in advance for helping them out. They are a wonderful, caring group of doctors.

— *Love, Abby*

## LOCAL, STATE &amp; REGION



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Bethany Free Lutheran Church has faced opposition from neighbors over plans to develop a 5,000-square-foot annex on this plot of land.

## DIFFERENT VIEWS

*A church expansion in Astoria revives debate over quality of life — and what residents can see*

BY EDWARD STRATTON  
The Astorian

A family is threatening to take a fight against a proposed church annex in Astoria to the state to protect the family's views of the Columbia River.

The argument has revived the issue of how Astoria, a city known for panoramic views, balances quality-of-life with property rights.

Members of Bethany Free Lutheran Church want to build a 5,000-square-foot annex in a vacant lot the congregation purchased in the 1980s. The building, gabled to mimic the church, would rise to 34 feet in an east-west orientation.

The church annex would block the view of Vincent Tadei, who has lived next door for 88 years, and whose family built the home in 1904. The family has installed yard signs decrying the potential expansion and has hired a lawyer to fight the project.

After failing to convince the Historic Landmarks Commission and City Council to deny the project's design, the Tadei family filed a notice of intent with the state Land Use Board of Appeals to intervene.

Carrie Richter, the lawyer for the Tadei family, has argued that the landmarks commission improperly compared the church annex to large commercial buildings along U.S. Highway 30 and a nonhistoric church built in the 1980s when determining neighborhood compatibility, rather than accounting for the nearby historic homes it would dwarf.

City councilors commiserated with the Tadei family over concerns with the size of the church annex. But they backed the commission's decision, agreeing with the argument that the neighborhood includes larger buildings.

## Regulating views

Members of the Tadei family argue that while the Riverfront Vision Plan created by the city has protected views and minimized development on the water, historic properties like theirs south of Highway 30 in Uppertown have not been provided the same protections.

Peter Tadei, a commercial real estate agent, recalled the proposed Fairfield Inn and Suites off Second Street. The four-story hotel, since denied building permit extensions by the City Council, spawned amendments to city code that shrank the allowed height and mass of buildings on the waterfront to protect views.

"How is it OK for everybody to shout down the hotel, but when it comes to the Tadeis' house, there's not such a concern by City Council, by (the Historic Landmarks Commission)?" he said. "Nobody seems to be ready to stand on our side of that issue."

Daryl Moore, the president of the Planning Commission, said there has been a long history of property owners assuming their views are protected, getting angered when they realize they aren't and wondering why the city does nothing.

Commissioner Brookley Henri called the discussion timely, given the red-hot real estate



Edward Stratton/The Astorian

The Tadei family is battling a proposed annex by Bethany Free Lutheran Church because it would block the Columbia River views of patriarch Vincent Tadei.



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

A photo of Vincent Tadei's family at the house in the early 1900s hangs on the wall.

market and the importance of views to property value.

"I think we have a responsibility to help people protect their property values, or at least have some way to address it, if it comes up as a concern," she said.

Commissioner Chris Womack cautioned that the city needs to balance the value of a view versus the value of a property that should be buildable based on city code and zoning rules. But a majority of planning commissioners showed interest in asking the City Council and City Manager Brett Estes whether they should discuss codifying the value of viewsheds.

Estes also questioned whether protecting viewsheds citywide would hinder efforts to develop more affordable housing. View protections in other cities have often been enacted in high-end, affluent neighborhoods and resulted in expensive legal challenges, he said.

"One that I can think of specifically is in the Puget Sound and Seattle where there were lawsuits between neighbors over this whole issue," Estes said. "I would ask that if these are set up in a similar situation in Astoria, would we have a similar set of circumstances?"

YOUR HOROSCOPE *By Georgia Nicols*

Stars show the kind of day you'll have

★★★★★ DYNAMIC | ★★★★★ POSITIVE | ★★★ AVERAGE | ★★ SO-SO | ★ DIFFICULT

**MOON ALERT:** There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in Scorpio.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, MAY 24, 2021:** You are witty, talkative and compassionate. You have a fine analytical mind, yet you are also intuitive. Because of your imagination, you excel in the arts and music. As this year shifts, you will overcome obstacles and make strides toward the realization of your goals, especially those that involve learning or further study. Some of you will teach as well.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)**

★★★★ No doubt, you're already feeling Mercury retrograde impacting your sign even though it does not technically go retrograde until May 28. (Symbolically, it's been slowing down since May 16.) Be proactive about your cars and trucks, because transportation delays are classic. Tonight: Shared finances might disappoint.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**

★★★ Checks in the mail will be late and financial matters will experience delays because of Mercury retrograde. This influence will intensify in the next month. The good news is you can swiftly wrap up old business during this time. Tonight: Be polite with someone older.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**

★★★ Many of you are in contact with ex-partners and friends from your past because Mercury retrograde will be taking place in your sign. Technically, this occurs from May 28 to June 22, but in reality, its influence is May 16 to July 8. Good luck! Tonight: Expect restrictions.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**

★★★ Mercury retrograde is generally something like the hounds from hell for most of us. "What? Not that again?" However, this particular Mercury retrograde will actually benefit you because it will help you do research and study the past. You can use this to your advantage! (Each Mercury retrograde is different.) Tonight: Accept obligations with children.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**

★★★★ You are probably hearing from old friends as well as members of groups to which you might have belonged before due to the influence of Mercury retrograde. You can use this influence in the next few weeks to rethink future goals. You might even resurrect an old goal. Tonight: Listen to an older family member.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**

★★★ This month Mercury retrograde is taking place at the top of your chart. Because its influence has already begun, you might be hearing from parents, bosses and authority types you haven't seen in a while. Might this be a helpful reconnection? Tonight: Don't succumb to worry. (It's a habit.)

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**

★★★ You are one of the signs that can actually benefit from the frustrating impact of Mercury retrograde, because this particular Mercury retrograde will help you study the past, especially history, and it also will help you finish important papers or manuscripts. Yes! Tonight: Money shortages.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**

★★★ Although Mercury retrograde will create delays in business negotiations, especially with banks or about shared property, it also can smoothly expedite old business from the past — like insurance issues that might be dragging on. This could be helpful! Tonight: Don't be discouraged.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**

★★★ You will soon hear from ex-partners and old friends from the past due to the influence of Mercury retrograde. Sometimes this is an unnerving experience. Nevertheless, it could be an opportunity for closure. Tonight: You might feel isolated or alone.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**

★★★ You will feel the brunt of Mercury retrograde at work or in any task that you set for yourself. Expect delays, mixed-up communications, lost paperwork, missed appointments and shortages. Cope as best you can, because what choice do you have? Tonight: Someone might criticize you.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**

★★★ Many of you will be thinking about, dreaming about or in contact with old flames now or later this month because of the influence of Mercury retrograde. Some of you will deal with old business related to kids and sports as well. Tonight: Your wishes might be blocked.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**

★★★ Stock the fridge, because relatives might be camped on your doorstep. This is because Mercury retrograde will attract family you haven't seen in a while. However, Mercury retrograde will also help you do home repairs. Tonight: Rules might limit your behavior.