



## Council to get proposal for \$37.8 million budget

### Budget Committee to present budget at council's June meeting

By Katherine Lacaze  
Seaside Signal

The city of Seaside's Budget Committee has finished its work and will be recommending an approximately \$37.8 million budget for fiscal year 2015-16

to Seaside City Council in June.

The Budget Committee held several meetings throughout April and May and finalized the proposed budget at its May 12 meeting. The committee's recommendation will be brought to City Council at its June 22 meeting for public comment, board comments and possible adoption.

The proposed budget of \$37,813,701 for all funds

is an approximately 11 percent increase from the 2014-15 adopted budget of \$34,054,783.

The proposed budget allows \$5,548,650 for the general fund, which includes administration, library and community center costs; \$5,182,766 for public safety, which includes Seaside Municipal Court, the Seaside Police Department, Seaside Fire & Rescue and the life-guard program; \$530,497

for community development; and \$1,345,130 for public works.

Of note, the budget allows for an assistant city manager position starting in January 2016. This will be in place of the Finance Director position, which the city has not filled since 2010. The budget also maintains the municipal court clerk position, which was vacant for a year and a half before being filled at the end of 2014.

The city's budget also accounts for several special revenue funds that are legally restricted to be spent for specific purposes. The special revenue funds include the state tax street fund, the Seaside Downtown Maintenance District, 911 dispatch, economic development, emergency readiness, watershed enhancement and fire equipment.

Additionally, the proposed budget includes a

debt service fund to account for tax revenues received and bond payments for the city's general obligation bonds issued for the city's water storage tank.

Other aspects of the budget include trust and agency funds, capital project funds and enterprise funds. The enterprise funds are for operations that are financed and managed in a manner

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### School District's budget committee approves \$21 million budget

### School board will take public comments on budget at June meeting

By Katherine Lacaze  
Seaside Signal

Seaside School District's Budget Committee finished its work on a proposed budget of approximately \$21 million for the 2015-16 school year.

The committee held its second meeting before the regular Seaside School Board of Directors meeting Tuesday and unanimously approved the budget without changing what was proposed by district staff. The committee will recommend the proposed budget to the School Board at its June 16 meeting, when the board will hold a public hearing and may enact resolutions to adopt the budget, to make the appropriations and to declare the tax levy.

The proposed \$21,031,919 budget includes increased compensation for all employees by at least 2.25 percent with steps when applicable, according to Justine Hill, the district's business manager.

Funds also have been designated to implement a full-time kindergarten program at Seaside Heights Elementary School and Gearhart Elementary School. The program will be phased in at both schools with a soft transition and staggered start for students.

Two projected offsets will allow the district to increase allocations in school year 2015-16 without making reductions, according to Superintendent Doug Dougherty.

First, the Greater Seaside Urban Renewal District is set to expire at the end of the 2014-15 fiscal year, which

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## Honoring America's fallen heroes

American Legion ceremony draws large crowd for Memorial Day observance

By Katherine Lacaze  
Seaside Signal

Former First Vice Commander Gary Lee Heller, the honoree at the Seaside American Legion Post 99's Memorial Day service, was very patriotic, according to his siblings.

He served in the U.S. National Guard from 1961 to 1969 and passed away July 3, 2014, at age 70, after being a member of the Seaside American Legion for 12 years.

At the Memorial Day ceremony Monday, his brother Duane Heller, sister Jeannette Klefstad and lifetime friend Jon Marsh were escorted by Second Vice Commander Chuck Godwin to the bridge arching over the Neawanna Creek to lay a commemorative wreath into the water below in memory of Gary Heller.

The Heller siblings were raised and schooled in Seaside and Gary Heller, the youngest brother, moved back to the area from Los Angeles, Calif., 15 years ago. Duane Heller lives in Seaside, but Klefstad and Marsh were visiting from out of town for the occasion, which "was a great honor," Duane Heller said.

"What more can I say?" he added. "They're honoring our brother."

Klefstad agreed, adding the timing was coincidentally appropriate as Tuesday, May 26, would have been Gary Heller's birthday.

The American Legion's ceremony was attended by more than 70 people, the largest crowd Commander Lou Neubecker said he could remember. When the chairs under two awnings filled up, more chairs were pulled from the nearby American Legion building and other attendees spilled across the parking lot to honor the nation's fallen soldiers.

Memorial Day, Neubecker said, is a time to celebrate the lives of America's deceased veterans, but "it's also a very sad day of remembrance."

"Please don't wish me a 'happy Memorial Day,'" he said.

Seaside Elks' Exalted Ruler Jerry Lounsbury gave a short history of Memorial Day, which was sparked in the mid-1860s in Waterloo, N.Y. — and possibly other locations — when volunteers would place flowers on the gravesites of deceased veterans. Originally, he said, it was called "Decoration Day," and on May 30, 1868, three years after the end of the Civil War, the first national ceremony was held at Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C. In 1971, the U.S. government made Memorial Day a federal holiday, to be observed on the last Monday in May.

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R.J. MARX PHOTO

**Kyrstin Crawford, "Miss Poppy," at Seaside Memorial Day observance at the American Legion Post 99 in Seaside.**



**Daniel Jordan, with the Patriot Guard Riders, rides down Broadway street with other riders as part of a motorcade ceremony on Memorial Day. The motorcade was made up of riders from the American Legion Riders, Patriot Guard Riders, and North Coast ABATE. This was the first year the motorcade ceremony has been held.**  
JOSHUA BESSEX  
THE DAILY ASTORIAN

## Panhandling debate spotlights dilemma for law enforcement

### Police in Seaside, elsewhere grapple with contradictions between First Amendment rights, local ordinances

By Katherine Lacaze  
Seaside Signal

Panhandling. It has a persistent presence in Seaside, let alone larger metropolitan areas, and it's an issue that forces law enforcement agencies to try to balance local ordinances with civil rights claims.

"It's been an ongoing

thing in every community," Seaside Police Chief Dave Ham said. In cities across the country, one is not hard pressed to find individuals holding signs and asking for some form of assistance, whether it's money, food, work or other items.

In Seaside, panhandlers are most prevalent near the Safeway entrance on Roosevelt Drive or in the core downtown area, especially during the summer months.

The Seaside Police Department could not provide concrete numbers on how many incidents of panhan-

dling have been reported or responded to. Ham said they don't have a code in their system to identify calls or situations pertaining specifically to begging or panhandling, but rather identify them as general code violations, so aggregate numbers regarding general violations include other incidents, as well.

The department does get numerous calls reporting panhandlers on a regular basis — enough, Ham said, "that it doesn't surprise me you're doing a story on it."

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R.J. MARX PHOTO

**Edgel, a partially disabled Vietnam vet, seeks assistance in Seaside. "I don't try to get by, I just try to get we need for the week in a day," he said. "If I get \$20, it'll let us last two or three days. They cut our food stamps from \$260 to \$202."**