



Regional firefighters worked quickly to bring a two-alarm apartment fire under control July 29 in Seaside.

Apartment fire leaves ten homeless

A two-alarm fire at a small apartment complex at 381 S. Edgewood in Seaside on July 29 was quickly brought under control by firefighters. When crews arrived smoke was coming from the back of the six-unit structure.

Occupants present at the time of the fire escaped unharmed, though six cats were reported to have died while 20 additional cats were rescued and treated for smoke inhalation.

The fire, which occurred at approximately 4:39 p.m. on Friday, affected nine adults and one child. Re-

sponding to the needs of those displaced, the American Red Cross Cascades Region helped address the immediate basic needs of those affected with temporary housing, food, clothing, comfort kits, and other services.

Seaside Fire and Rescue was supported by crews from Cannon Beach Fire and Rescue, Gearhart Volunteer Fire Department and Warrenton Fire Department. Additional Clatsop County resources were utilized for coverage during the fire. The cause of the blaze is currently under investigation.

With variances, Pearl of Seaside motel project moves forward

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

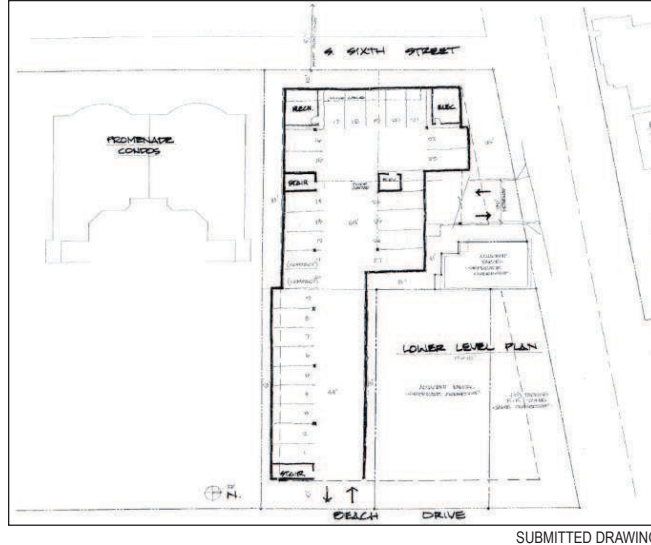
One motel will come down and another will go up as the Seaside Planning Commission approved variances for the Pearl of Seaside, a 48-room motel on the Prom.

The property is being developed by Antoine and Rocio Simmons of Haystack Lodgings, a management company that owns and operates boutique motels, including Seaside's Gilbert Inn, which the couple purchased in 2014.

"I don't want it to be a square box," Antoine Simmons said of the Pearl. "I want it to be something that is architecturally designed, that has some character. I want it to be something people discover, that's unique, one-of-a-kind."

Approval and findings, which include a height variance and setback adjustments to meet city parking standards, were presented Tuesday, July 19, by Planning Director Kevin Cupples.

The Pearl will replace the Inn at the Prom, which Simmons purchased in 2011 when it was the Edgewater. The property was built in 1920 as a home and "is in generally



Rendering of The Pearl. Note adjacent parcels under separate ownership.

poor condition and in need of replacement," according to planning documents. Part of the Pearl will be built on a vacant property next door, now under contract with Simmons, which he described as "a serious eyesore to everyone."

Plans for the new hotel include a two-level parking garage on Beach Avenue with 41 inside spaces. An additional 10 outdoor spaces will be available on Avenue A. Only one level of the Beach Avenue garage will be visible from the street, he said. A variance

was required to bring parking spaces to code.

Rooms are proposed for three floors, while a penthouse floor drawing shows five rooms capped by a tower roof.

Because of street grade differences on the property, the couple requested a 7-foot height variance to exceed the building height limit of 45 feet. "We're at 52 feet, next door, they're 51," Simmons said of the neighboring Promenade hotel. "We're pretty much mirrored. We're going to be side by side, same height."



The Pearl of Seaside will be built upon this vacant lot, pending a sale.

While public comment was closed, neighbors have an opportunity to appeal to Seaside City Council, but the deadline for appeal, Aug. 4, has passed. Simmons said he plans to develop construction and mechanical designs, followed by room layout and design. Variance approval expires in one year from the decision date unless the permit is used or a time extension approved.

"We're very excited about the project," Simmons said. "We think it will be a beautiful addition to downtown. We're hoping to be something unique."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Clatsop fire season restrictions announced

The Oregon Department of Forestry and Clatsop County Fire Defense Board announce fire season restrictions. Fire season was declared July 21, and the following guidelines have been adopted.

Open debris burning is prohibited, with certain conditions. Burn barrels are allowed; some permits may be required.

Recreational fires are allowed at designated campsites, personal residents and beaches. They must be no closer than 50 feet from dune grass and 15 feet from any structure. No fires are allowed in drift wood. Maximum fire size is 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height.

Fires must be attended at all times, and completely extinguished when leaving. Fires may not be allowed during periods of extreme fire conditions, such as high winds, low humidity, extended periods without moisture.

Permits are required for permanent or temporary recreational fires.

For more information contact Seaside Fire and Rescue, 503-738-5420.

'Meet the Artist' at Gearhart ArtWalk

Gearhart ArtWalk takes place Saturday, Aug. 6, from 2 to 5 p.m. A Great Gallery features pet portrait artist Deanne Johnson; 576 Pacific Way, 503-709-2840.

Trail's End Art Association presents a show by Linda Gebhart opening Aug. 6. The reception and opportunity to meet the artist are a part of the Gearhart Art Walk from 2-5 p.m. at 656 A Street in Gearhart; 503-717-9458.

Oregon Coast Trail hike coming in September

North Coast Land Conservancy has opened registration for its inaugural CoastWalk Oregon, scheduled for Sept. 23-25. Participation is limited to the first 50 registrants.

The walk will follow the route of the Oregon Coast Trail, beginning at the Columbia River's south jetty and ending in Cannon Beach. For details or to register, visit CoastWalkOregon.org.

Fort Clatsop Road closed through Aug. 31

The Fort Clatsop Rd. arch culvert repair at milepost 2.44 has necessitated the complete closure of Fort Clatsop Rd. to all traffic during construction now through Aug. 31. Please use Lewis and Clark Rd. as a detour route.

For any questions and/or concerns, please contact Ted McLean at work, 503-325-8631, or cell phone, 503-791-2907.

Seaside gives green light to dog park near middle school

By Dave Fisher
Seaside Signal

A new dog park is coming to Seaside.

The Seaside's Parks and Recreation Committee request for the conditional approval of the city's first dog park was granted July 25 at the City Council meeting. The park will be located in an "underutilized area" at the north end of the Broadway Middle School parking lot.

"It will dress up that part of town," said Public Works Director Dale McDowell in his summary of the project to council members.

The Planning Commission conditionally approved the plans at a meeting in ear-

ly July. In their decision, it okayed a park to provide a central located fenced-off area where the public can exercise their dogs on and off leash.

Utilizing mostly recycled materials, such as chain link fencing and even a nonfunctional fire hydrant as a decorative addition, the cost to the city was kept to a minimum; \$780, according to McDowell.

The proposed dog park will provide a centrally located facility that can be used by residents and visitors with parking and ADA accessibility in place.

"It's amazing that you can do this for \$780," said Councilor Randy Frank. "Once again, Seaside has set the standard."



City map indicates area of proposed dog park.

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