

State homeland security grants fund local preparedness projects

Money for tsunami sirens, updated plans

By Brenna Visser
The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County has secured almost \$69,000 in state homeland security grants to fund emergency preparedness projects.

Three grants will fund \$30,000 in updates to Gearhart and Warrenton's emergency operations plans, support a \$8,860 credentialing system for county emergency volunteers and provide \$30,000 to install two tsunami sirens in Warrenton.

In March, the Warrenton City Commission approved an agreement with the county for the sirens, pending funding.

Some communities on the coast, like in Tillamook County, have questioned the utility of sirens. In 2012, officials chose to dismantle around 30 pole-mounted, 1960s-era tsunami sirens, arguing other



AP PHOTO/CALEB JONES

Some emergency planners have questioned the utility of tsunami sirens.

communication methods like mass texts or automated reverse 911 calls are more effective warning systems.

"One of the arguments against sirens is that ground shaking should be the warning," Tiffany Brown, director of Clatsop County Emergency Management, said. "But I think in Clatsop County that having a redundant method in place isn't a bad thing — especially with so many people from out of town."

Another \$30,000 will go to revamping emergency operations plans in Warrenton and Gearhart. Warrenton's last full update occurred in 2010, and Gearhart's back in 2009.

The cities have provided reviews of the plans, which outline the roles and responsibilities of a city during an emergency, but the time has come to conduct a full-scale rewrite, Brown said. There has been a large amount of turnover in staff and elected

officials in both cities.

"The greatest conversations happen during these updates," Brown said. "When (the cities) drafted these, they were consultant driven. They didn't really have emergency management programs. Now we are looking at them with our programs in mind."

The third grant — \$8,860 — will go toward building a Citizen Corps system, a database that will help track hours and coordinate credentials for volunteers through Community Emergency Response Teams and other disaster response teams throughout the county.

The project is designed to improve verification capability by providing identification badge printing and volunteer management software.

"Let's say a disaster happens and you can't physically get to your community," Brown said. "This would allow a sponsoring agency to know if you're a county volunteer."

Brown said grant dollars will be available to use starting this fall.



Gearhart holds its annual Fireman's Ball on May 26.
R.J. MARX

Gearhart fire department fundraiser set for May 26

Gearhart's 57th annual volunteer fire department fundraiser takes place Saturday, May 26, from 8 p.m. to midnight. This year's fundraiser is in conjunction with the 100th year birthday celebration of the city of Gearhart. Along with games, entertainment and refreshments, the event will offer a silent auction, signature champagne beverage and clothing celebrating the event.

All funds go to fire department programs and benefit the service provided

to the community. These include the smoke detector program, safety and tsunami brochures, fire prevention and public education programs and firefighter safety and education programs.

The department is attempting to complete replacement of aging self-contained breathing apparatus, with funding a priority for the department and safety of firefighters.

Visit gearhartfire.com for prevent, home fire safety and other links.

Two new dispatchers take oath

"Congratulations and welcome," Seaside Police Chief Dave Ham said as he swore in the city's new communications clerks, Judy Chen and Brittany Nelson,

at the Monday, May 14, City Council meeting. The dispatchers filled vacancies in the department, he said, with one more vacancy to fill.

POLICE LOG

May 5
10:46 a.m., Police headquarters: A person came in to register as a sex offender.

May 6
10:18 a.m., 3400 block S. Hemlock, Cannon Beach: Seaside police assist Cannon Beach police on a domestic disturbance call.

10:27 a.m., 800 block S. Roosevelt: Police respond to a report about possible abuse of a dog. The dog was fine. Owner denied any abuse.

3:47 p.m., 400 block The Prom: Caller requests assistance locating his intoxicated wife. Officers respond; the woman was located; the couple set off to return to Lake Oswego with

no issues.

5:43 p.m., 1200 block S. Holladay: A dog bite is reported.

5:49 p.m., Highway 101: A person is arrested and charged with DUII.

May 7
2:06 a.m., Avenue G and S. Holladay: A person is arrested and charged with kidnapping in the second degree; assault in the fourth degree, and menacing.

12:10 p.m., Seaside police station: A person came in to register as a sex offender.

May 8
9:51 p.m., 200 block S. Roosevelt: A person is trespassed from a business for one week.

May 9
1:54 a.m., S. Roosevelt: A person is pulled over and charged with failure to present their driver's license.

12:12 p.m., N. Wahanna: A person is charged with harassment.

May 10
7:08 a.m., 800 block S. Roosevelt: A man said to be trying to trade a bicycle for cigarettes abandoned the bike and left the area before police arrived. The bicycle was taken into custody as found property.

7:14 p.m., 2500 block S. Roosevelt: Police respond to a report of feet sticking out from under a blanket under bushes on private property. Police contact the sleeper who says

they will be moving on.

May 11
4:32 a.m., 300 block Avenue A: A person is charged with unlawful lodging and being in possession of alcohol.

7:42 a.m., Avenue K and Beach: An unoccupied tent is removed by police.

7:51 p.m., 200 block N. Holladay: A minor in possession of marijuana and another minor in possession of tobacco are charged.

9:01 p.m., Lifeguard tower: A person reported to be "messing with" the lifeguard stand tells police they are just playing with their dog. No suspicious activity was observed.

May 12
8:41 a.m., Shore Terrace and Wahanna: A nutria, also known as a coypu, was assisted in getting unstuck from a chain link fence.

9:19 a.m., Lincoln and Avenue S: A person or persons are arrested and charged with disorderly conduct in the second degree; possession of burglar's tools; and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

10:26 a.m., 300 block S. Roosevelt: A theft in the third degree is reported.

4:02 p.m., 400 block Avenue A: An anonymous caller reports persons sleeping in front of a business. The people are told to move along.

7:01 p.m., 400 S. Roosevelt: Caller reports "a man with two children nodding off as if on drugs." Police responding say the man is praying. No sign of drug use is found.

May 13
10:21 a.m., 800 block Necanicum: A person is arrested and charged with being in possession of heroin.

11:28 a.m., The Cove: Unlawful entry of a motor vehicle is reported as well as theft in the second degree and criminal mischief.

4:19 p.m., The Prom and Shilo Inn: A child reported missing is united with their parent.



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