

# DON'T BRING THAT CAMERA TO THE COVE

Seaside's surfers are upset about camera and drone operators at the Cove.

Resident Joyce Hunt came to the City Council in early December with a concern about drone encounters. Drones fly close overhead, she said, at the windshield level of cars and frightening families.

She asked for guidance on the issue. "I used to be a pilot," Hunt said. "I know that there are rules. I feel it's an issue I don't know anything about."

When she called police dispatch to complain about a low-flying drone, they "basically said it's legal to fly that."

After calls to the Federal Aviation Agency, local police and Oregon State Parks — which patrols the beaches — "it sounds like there are no straight answers."

The FAA "doesn't want to get into real local, unless you're within five miles of an airport," she said. "Just curious where I go, who I talk to if I have an obnoxious drone operator."

City Councilor Seth Morrissey of Morrissey Productions, based in Seaside, is an experienced drone operator. "It's like the Wild West out there," Morrissey replied to Hunt's comments. "And everything you said was true."

## Enforcement?

The Oregon State Parks Department enforces a small set of recreation- and natural resource-related rules on the ocean shore, media coordinator Chris Havel said in January.

"There are no state recreation rules against drones on the ocean shore," Havel said. "In fact, state agencies need permission from the Legislature to pass drone rules."

He said park staff "do regularly talk to people about the need for mutual respect; that normally doesn't involve citing people for violating rules."

Katie Gauthier, the legislative and policy coordinator for state parks, told the Astorian last summer that drones are generally legal in most state parks, including beaches, except in areas where flights could endanger wildlife or pose risks to people or property.

After Seaside's December meeting, Chief Dave Ham said complaints of drone operators are "infrequent," during the off-season, "maybe once a month."

"During the busier season we would see a few more, usually related to the beach area," Ham said.

The complaints usually concern an invasion of privacy.



Colin Murphey/For Seaside Signal



SEEN FROM SEASIDE  
R.J. MARX

"Although as you heard the other night, using it in close proximity to people can be harassing and annoying," Ham added. "Generally speaking, harassing use of a drone could be violating the city disorderly conduct ordinance."

Dispatchers usually tell those filing complaints that the city does not have specific ordinances prohibiting the use, but they are aware of the local airport and permits that can be obtained via the public works director.

"Usually our officers will respond to the area of the complaint," Ham said. "Unfortunately the operator is often times not located due to being able to remote control the drone from a substantial distance away from where it is operating."

## An airport issue

Randall Henderson, chairman of Seaside's Airport Advisory Committee, said that drones are not "strictly speaking an airport issue."

But the committee has concerns that drones keep out of the flight path of lower-altitude flights offshore where it's legal to do so. "I would hope that drone operators are aware of that and keeping

## FROM SEASIDE'S DRONE FLIGHT AUTHORIZATION

Register your aircraft at [www.faa.gov/uas/registration](http://www.faa.gov/uas/registration).

When flying a drone within 5 miles of the Seaside Municipal Airport, contact 503-738-5112.

Provide information on where you will be operating, what altitudes, and what type of flying activity you will be doing.

Never fly over groups of people.

Never fly over the Promenade, homes, hotels, or beach events.

Never fly near emergency response efforts.

Never fly under the influence.

Be aware of airspace requirements.

"You are officially a pilot, safety is in your hands!"

their drones in sight at all times as per the regulations."

The committee serves in an advisory capacity, he added, and not a rule-making body. While it's "pretty easy" to operate a drone without anyone knowing about it.

Drone operators flying within five miles of the Seaside Airport are asked to call an airport sponsor or manager — that is, the owner of the airport or its manager. In that case, it would be the city of Seaside, which has designated a management role to Public Works

Combing the beach for objects is a popular pastime at the Cove in Seaside as seen in this drone photo.



Colin Murphey/Daily Astorian

The site of the new high school in Seaside can be seen in this October 2018 drone photo.

Director Dale McDowell.

Operators are asked to notify McDowell, who says he can respond 24/7. They receive a fact sheet from the city and a list of safety guidelines. Drone information is available on the city's website under the heading "municipal airport."

While there have yet to be any safety incidents, pilots and others are worried a drone could hit a plane. Federal aviation rules are not specific enough, Henderson said, and should focus on regulating drone use near the airport's

departure and approach path.

Instead, the FAA has picked a "one size fits all" approach. That could be refined as drones become more prevalent.

For now, Henderson said the committee is taking a "wait-and-see attitude. . . . You don't want to solve problems that don't necessarily exist."

What about the plight of the surfers?

"We're concerned with safety of aircraft and if that rears its head in some way, we'll take it from there," Henderson said.

# Valentine's Day — Been there, done that

It's another Valentine's Day, so I decided to take a moment to count my blessings. At this stage of the game, I'm happy to say the official day of romantic love is not a heartbreaker or heart stopper anymore for me.

Like everyone else who pays heed to this date, I remember every tortured Valentine's Day of the past. The worst was fourth grade when you were supposed to make and receive a valentine for and from every person in your class. I never was good at crafts and anything requiring construction paper and doilies was a stretch. Also, let's be real. Not everyone received a Valentine, which made for some awkward moments, even in fourth grade.

I thank my lucky stars I know who my Valentine is. I wouldn't like being on the dating circuit, trying to make a romantic connection. My friends who date online are either very brave, or crazy. Have you watched the Bravo scripted series, "Dirty John" perchance? Based on a true story, the series takes you step by step through a doomed and dangerous romance. An attractive and successful woman in her 40s begins

VIEW FROM THE PORCH  
EVE MARX



**I'VE BEEN MARRIED 30 YEARS, GIVE OR TAKE; THERE HAVE BEEN PLENTY OF VALENTINE'S DAYS THAT SHOULD BE RELEGATED TO A DARK VAULT.**

dating a man who she thinks is a doctor. He isn't. All my girlfriends urged me to listen to the podcast of the real people the show was based on, but I didn't have the stomach.

To amuse myself this morning while cleaning the bathroom (nothing is harder on romance than two people sharing one bathroom) I composed in my head some possible profiles for myself if, God forbid, I ever have to create an online dating profile. "Fully grown, slightly overweight woman writer seeks smart guy with his own income. Must like Indian food and dogs." Or, "Slightly insolvent but still attractive mature female seeking rich guy who isn't too full of himself. Must not like to stay out too late and can see to drive in the dark." I can't imagine how that would go over. I'm guessing not very well. Which

is just as well because the whole point of going on any date means that after a certain number of dates, you're expected to take your clothes off.

I've been married 30 years, give or take; there have been plenty of Valentine's Days that should be relegated to a dark vault. There was the year my husband splurged

for tickets to a Broadway show neither one of us was keen to see. One year he bought us plane tickets to the BVI but we never went. Scattered throughout the years there have been a few nice Valentine's Day dinners in nice restaurants, although going out on Valentine's Day never was our thing. Back in the early 2000s I had a heart-shaped cake tin I would trot out to make a flourless chocolate cake, but the tin rusted and I never replaced it. Possibly that was a mistake.

This year I'm declaring Valentine's Day to be the year of giving flowers. I like roses. I like Gerber daisies. I like tulips. The best thing about flowers is you love them for a few days and then they go away. Unlike chocolate, which stays on your hips, like forever.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### What is chip van doing on North Wahanna?

I am entertaining a rhetorical question. What is a chip van doing traveling southbound on North Wahanna Road? Has a pulp mill been slipped into Bear Valley while I was staring out my back window at the moonscaped tree cemetery to the east?

I get it why loaded log trucks must travel by my front stoop. Southbound trucks aren't able to negotiate the turn at the Melville Interchange where Lewis and Clark road intersects with U.S. Highway 101 so they need to approach 101 by traveling Wah-

anna in order to cross Neawanna Creek at 12th Avenue.

And when I look out and see a northbound loaded log truck, I know full well the trucker could be overloaded, and needs to travel north by way of Lewis and Clark road, to avoid the ODOT truck scales opened on Highway 101 near Reed and Hertig.

None of this addresses the question of the chip truck, but I would be the first to admit some questions don't really need to be answered, particularly when all these observations are not imaginary but purely anecdotal.

Gary Durheim  
Seaside

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

<b>TUESDAY, Feb. 19</b> Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District, Bob Chisholm Community Center, 5:15 p.m., 1225 Avenue A, Seaside.	City Hall, 989 Broadway.	Avenue A, Seaside.
Seaside School District Board of Directors, 6 p.m., 1801 S. Franklin.		
Seaside Planning Commission, 7 p.m., work session, City Hall, 989 Broadway.		
<b>WEDNESDAY, Feb. 20</b> Seaside Tourism Advisory Committee, 3 p.m.,		
<b>THURSDAY, Feb. 21</b> Seaside Transportation Advisory Committee, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.		Seaside Library Board, 4:30 p.m., Seaside Public Library, 1131 Broadway.
		Seaside Planning Commission, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.
<b>MONDAY, Feb. 25</b> Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.		<b>WEDNESDAY, March 6</b> Gearhart City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 698 Pacific Way.
<b>TUESDAY, March 5</b> Community Center Commission meeting, 10:30 a.m., 1225 Chisholm Center, 1225		<b>THURSDAY, March 7</b> Seaside Parks Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.



PUBLISHER  
Kari Borgen

EDITOR  
R.J. Marx

CIRCULATION  
MANAGER  
Jeremy Feldman

ADVERTISING  
SALES  
April Olsen

PRODUCTION  
MANAGER  
John D. Bruijn

SYSTEMS  
MANAGER  
Carl Earl

CONTRIBUTING  
WRITERS  
Skyler Archibald  
Katherine Lacaze  
Eve Marx  
Esther Moberg  
Joshua Heineman

### Seaside Signal

The Seaside Signal is published every other week by EO Media Group, 1555 N. Roosevelt, Seaside, OR 97138. 503-738-5561 [seasidesignal.com](http://seasidesignal.com) Copyright 2019 © Seaside Signal. Nothing can be reprinted or copied without consent of the owners.

### Letter policy

The Seaside Signal welcomes letters to the editor. The deadline is noon Monday prior to publication. Letters must be 400 words or less and must be signed by the author and include a phone number for verification. We also request that submissions be limited to one letter per month. Send to 1555 N. Roosevelt Drive, Seaside, OR 97138, drop them off at 1555 N. Roosevelt Drive or fax to 503-738-9285, or email [rmrnx@seasidesignal.com](mailto:rmrnx@seasidesignal.com)

### Subscriptions

Annually: \$40.50 in county • \$58.00 in and out of county • e-Edition: only \$30.00

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Seaside Signal, P.O. Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103. Postage Paid at Seaside, OR, 97138 and at additional mailing offices. Copyright 2019 © by the Seaside Signal. No portion of this newspaper may be reproduced without written permission. All rights reserved.