

Smart meter presentation at Seaside Brewing

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Pacific Power came to Seaside March 5 to present a smart meter technology workshop, held at Seaside Brewing Co.

Along with demonstrations of the new technology, representatives offered customers some hope of a reduction in the monthly fee charged to opt out of meter replacement.

Pacific Power's smart meter installation program began in Oregon in early 2018 in the Willamette Valley; the first replacements in Clatsop County began Feb. 11.

The project, which will upgrade 24,000 meters across Clatsop County by fall, is part of the company's statewide effort to make a more resilient power grid better suited to adapt to renewable energies.

At both February Seaside City Council and Clatsop County Commission meetings, residents objected to the \$36 a month opt-out fee charged to customers who choose not to replace their meters.

The fee is determined by

the cost of bringing service to opt-out customers.

An additional \$137 one-time opt-out charge was dropped last August. That cost is based on "going out and reading one meter," customer regulatory manager Melissa Nottingham of Pacific Power said at Tuesday's workshop. "Then we average that over all the meter readings."

Nottingham said she was working with the Oregon Public Utility Commission "right now" to lower the financial burden of the opt-out fee.

After the power company's system is fully installed and the network is running, that cost will be reevaluated, Nottingham added. "We're going to look at it and say, 'Is that \$36-a-month still the cost to read the meter, or is it something else?'"

Other cost-savings for customers could come with longer periods between home meter readings, necessitating fewer visits. "We don't want to have too long a period between estimates, because people could get hit with a big 'catch-up' bill," Nottingham said. "So we're looking at maybe once a quarter."



Pacific Power customers in Clatsop County will be able to opt out of smart meters, but it will come with a price.

R.J. Marx

Personal initiative pays off with no-feeding ordinance

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Eight months ago, inspired by an ordinance in Warrenton, Bebe Michel asked Gearhart to ban wildlife feeding to discourage human interaction with elk, deer, bear and other wild animals.

Michel saw the ordinance as one way to cope with an ongoing concern over elk in Gearhart, where at times it seems the animals outnumber residents and every encounter comes with risk.

On March 6, Michel was in the audience at the City Council meeting as Ordinance 917 received unanimous approval.

"The attracting or feeding of wildlife within the city limits is declared to be a public nuisance and safety issue and is prohibited," the ordinance states.

Along with elk, residents and visitors may not feed bear, cougar, coyote or wolves, among other animals.

Feeding songbirds and squirrels is permitted, provided the food is contained in a feeder.

Violations could bring a penalty of up to \$500, but officials hope they'll find compliance before issuing fines.

The ordinance will become law in 30 days.

After the meeting, City Administrator Chad Sweet credited Michel with "a lot of great work. Not only does she come up with ideas, she also helps us with the solutions."

For Michel, this is the first city ordinance she's seen to fruition.

"Sitting here today, I was really kind of amazed at myself that I had proposed an ordinance and now seen



Gearhart resident Bebe Michel after a "no-feeding" of wildlife ordinance was approved. Michel suggested the ordinance, modeled on similar rules in Warrenton, to the council last summer.

how it went from proposal to work sessions and wended its way through the entire process to get to this point where we now have the ordinance in place," she said.

"Two years ago, if you had told me that I would have done this, I would have said, 'No, that's not ever going to be something I'm going to do.' When people say one person can't do anything, I'm proof that that isn't the case."

Eight months ago, inspired by legislation passed in Warrenton, Gearhart resident Bebe Michel proposed a no feeding of wildlife ordinance as a way to discourage human interaction between elk, deer, bear and other nondomesticated animals.

Michel saw the ordinance as one way to cope with an ongoing concern in Gearhart, where at times it seems elk outnumber residents and every encounter comes with risk.

On Wednesday, Michel was in the audience at Gearhart's City Council meeting as Ordinance 917 received a second reading and won

unanimous approval.

"The attracting or feeding of wildlife within the city limits is declared to be a public nuisance and safety issue and is prohibited," reads the ordinance.

Along with elk, residents and visitors may not feed bear, cougar, coyote or wolves, among other animals.

The prohibition includes any manner in which a person "places or knowingly allows food or other attractants to be placed on their property" with the intention of attracting or feeding wildlife.

Feeding of songbirds and squirrels is permitted, provided the food is contained in a feeder.

Violations could bring a penalty of up to \$500, but officials hope they'll find compliance before issuing fines.

The ordinance will become law in 30 days.

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"Sitting here today, I was really kind of amazed at myself that I had proposed an ordinance and now seen how it went from proposal to work sessions and wended its way through the entire process to get to this point where we now have the ordinance in place," she said. "Two years ago if you had told me that I would have done this, I would have said, 'No, that's not ever going to be something I'm going to do.' When people say one person can't do anything, I'm proof that that isn't the case."

Pacific Power lowers smart meter opt-out fee

The Daily Astorian

Pacific Power will lower the fee for customers who opt out of installing new smart power meters.

The utility had planned on charging \$36 a month for monthly meter reads for customers who opt out of the new meters, which automatically transmit power usage data to the utility.

Pacific Power submitted an alternative payment plan, recently approved by the state Public Utility Commission, to charge

\$9 a month with only three meter reads per year.

The new payment plan also allows customers to pay a level or equal monthly amount based on a historical average of their previous bills. The utility has also removed a fee for customers who later decide to have a smart meter installed.

"We've heard from customers that the fee to opt out of a smart meter is burdensome, and we have continued to look for new options," Etta Lockey, Pacific Power's vice president of regulation, said in

a news release. "This has been a collaborative process with the PUC and the Citizens' Utility Board, and we are pleased to offer this new option to customers."

Customers must select the new opt-out plan by calling 1-866-869-8520. All residential customers with nonstandard meters are eligible to participate. Residential customers with net meters, time of use meters or demand registers do not qualify.

For more information, visit pacificpower.net/smartmeter.

OBITUARIES

Charles (Chuck) Elliott Savage Warrenton July 29, 1933 — Feb. 26, 2019

Charles Savage was born in Seattle, Washington, on July 29, 1933, to Frederick Xavier Savage and Margret Elizabeth (Lemmon) Savage, both deceased. He joined a sister, Margery Savage, and was later joined by a brother, Rollin Savage, who preceded him in death. The family later moved to Yakima, Washington, where he graduated from Yakima High School in 1951.

He held many jobs during his working career: Veterinarian assistant for Doc McNutt in Seattle, Washington, mechanic for Boeing in Seattle, Washington, assistant manager for Standard Oil Co. station in Yakima, Washington, display advertising for the Yakima Herald Republic newspaper, display advertising for The Daily Astorian, advertising director for AgBag, owner/photographer for Savage Racing Photos and Savage Photos, and Savage Enterprises. Chuck was most proud of his public relations and marketing for NASCAR Northwest and the famous stuntman, Evel Knievel.

Chuck was very active in community

affairs both in Yakima, Washington, and Astoria, Oregon. He was a member of the Yakima Junior Chamber of Commerce, Yakima Toastmasters, Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce, and Astoria Ambassadors.



Charles Savage

Spending time with his children Dorinda (Rindy) Schultz, Eric (Rick) Savage, Brian Savage, Debbie Doughty, and Jennifer Waldrip, as well as his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, gave him great joy. He enjoyed traveling, lighthouses, photography, auto races, professional wrestling, garage sales, and chocolate ice cream.

Chuck kept his great sense of humor to the very end, and was always hoping to bring a smile to others. He passed away peacefully at his home in the Clatsop Care Memory Community on Feb. 26, 2019, at the age of 85. Thank you to the wonderful caregiving staff at the Memory Community and Dr. Alexander Gloria. We appreciate your love and support.

A memorial service was held on March 9, 2019, at Lewis and Clark Bible Church, 35082 Seppa Lane, in Astoria, Oregon.



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