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Loading zone aims to curb Sixth Avenue blockages

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Sixth Avenue residents met with local businesses in early October to try to iron out traffic concerns in their neighborhood, with Mayor Jay Barber attending.

The issues were mainly about speeding on Sixth Avenue and commercial trucks blocking traffic on the narrow street off U.S. Highway 101.

A speed study, signage and an agreement by Seaside Vacation Homes to establish a loading zone on the south side of Sixth Avenue became the first steps to resolution, Barber said at the Monday, Oct. 28, City Council meeting.

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CMH plans early January clinic opening

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

CEO Erik Thorsen came before the City Council to announce Jan. 6 as the projected opening date of the Columbia Memorial Hospital primary care and urgent care clinic at the Seaside Outlet Mall.

A private, not-for-profit organization, the new clinic will follow the model of CMH's Warrenton clinic, offering primary care, urgent care, X-ray and labs.

Thorsen described the "culture of Planetree," a model of care that puts the patient in the center of all care provided.

"We really try hard to put a patient's needs before our own," Thorsen said. "That could be something from the way our facilities look and feel, so they don't look so institutional, it could be making sure all your spiritual needs are being met regardless of your faith, and food, people feel food is an important part of the healing process."

CMH has 704 caregivers right now, he said, with 90 medical providers, both staff and independent physicians.

CMH maintains a 10-year collaboration with OHSU, which provides cardiology, emergency, urology and care for general surgery.

He anticipates 25 to 30 new "full-time family-wage jobs" will open through the new Seaside clinic.

CMH Medical Group Director of Operations Jeanette Shacher said urgent care will be open seven days a week, from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., and other services available five days a week.

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R.J. Marx

Downtown parking rules may be changed to promote workforce housing availability.

Parking changes could enhance workforce housing options

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

The City Council sought to address the city's need for affordable workforce housing with recommendations to eliminate the requirement for off-street parking spaces in the downtown corridor and central commercial zones.

The council also recommended reducing the number of off-street parking spaces for one-bedrooms and studio apartments in all zones. Currently the ordinance requires two parking spaces per dwelling unit, regardless of the dwelling size.

The council and Planning Commission have been seeking ways to overcome barriers to workforce housing, planning director Kevin Cupples said at the Monday, Oct. 28 council meeting. One of those items is centered around parking, he said.

The Planning Commission is ready to prepare a formal review process to develop a text amendment, Cupples said, to be presented to the City Council for approval.

Parking downtown currently limits the ability of property owners to develop residential apartments above their businesses because of the parking issue, Cupples said. Most down-



R.J. Marx

Buildings on what is known as "the Gilbert Block" in Seaside could provide housing options.

town buildings are built property line to property line. The parking district was developed to provide parking in the C-2 zone, but the high-density C-4 zone faces limited parking options.

Some second-floor spaces could be opened for apartment use, Cupples said.

The change was talked about in the council's January goal setting session,

Mayor Jay Barber said. "You wonder how many apartments are potentially there."

Councilor Steve Wright said a parking change has been "a long time coming."

With unanimous council approval, the Planning Commission will consider the parking change at its Dec. 3 meeting.

Girls in the Hood

By KATHERINE LACAZE
For Seaside Signal

What originated about six years ago as an effort for Seaside resident Tina Sawyer to address the challenges of moving full-time to a new town has now developed into a living, breathing entity that reflects the dozens of female-identifying people who are part of The Girls in the Hood.

"We are a group of local, fun-loving, slightly irreverent women committed to providing connections that serve women," Sawyer said. "In support of this goal, we have focused on building a strong social network of women

in Seaside, aka 'The Hood'."

The Girls in the Hood meet every first and third Thursday of the month from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Seaside Golf Club on Avenue U. There is no official membership process, and people don't have to RSVP for a given meeting. They can come as is, whenever they're available.

The bimonthly social night is regularly attended by about 20 women, but there are close to 70 in the network. The women encompass a wide variety of ages, professions, and backgrounds.

During the two or more hours they spend at the golf club, they



Katherine Lacaze

Denise Dailey (front row, from left), Tina Sawyer, Kathy Lund, Cat Sellars (back row, from left), Roni Corkrey, Karen Miller, and Mary Lou Harlan are some of the regular members of The Girls in the Hood.

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