



## Parking amendment aims to ease city's housing crunch

Developers seek to enhance 'downtown feel'

By R.J. MARX  
Seaside Signal

To spur downtown and workforce housing, the Planning Commission considered a new zoning amendment to reduce the required number of parking spaces for studio, one-bedroom and

two-bedroom apartments for downtown core areas of the city.

In future meetings, they will also consider a reduction in parking regulations in all zones.

"If you want to modify things or adjust things and be more specific about what this is applying to, then you've got latitude to do that," Planning Director Kevin Cupples said at the Tuesday, Dec. 3, Planning Commission meeting.

The current standard specifies two spots per dwelling unit, regardless of the

number of bedrooms. Commissioners considered language to bring those numbers down, possibly to one parking spot for studios and one-bedrooms and one-and-a-half spaces for two-bedroom units.

Vacation rental dwellings, condominiums and townhomes would still require two parking spaces per unit.

Members of the public and commissioners spoke on behalf of the proposed ordinance.

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## Foundation raises nearly \$200,000 at Festival of Trees

By KATHERINE LACAZE  
For Seaside Signal

Each year during the Seaside Festival of Trees, families are invited to view the lavishly decorated trees and enjoy a variety of holiday-themed activities, such as decorating cookies and making ornaments, without having to purchase a ticket to the gala that follows in the evening.

"For us, it's a gift to the community," Providence Seaside Hospital Foundation Executive Director Kimberly Ward, said.

During the event Saturday, Dec. 7, about approximately 1,200 people filtered through the Seaside Civic and Convention Center to vote on their favorite of the 17 festive trees, visit with Santa Claus, and take a stroll down Candy Cane Lane.

The doors upstairs were decorated with ribbons and bows, and each room featured a special activity sponsored by a community partner. Inside the Star of Wonder room, sponsored by Inland Electric, families created a selection of ornaments to take home for the holidays. Bank of the Pacific sponsored Cookies with Santa's Elves, where children slathered bright frosting on sugar cookies and topped them with rainbow-colored sprinkles.

Susan Romersa, who helped attendees put together necklaces for the Jingle All the Way activity, had volunteered the previous year, as well. Her favorite part, she said, is "the kids, they're happy," as they participate in the various activities, from story time with Mrs. Claus to face-painting.

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R.J. Marx  
Auctioneer Mark Schenfeld of Stokes Auction Group at Saturday's Safeway/Providence Festival of Trees Gala.



Katherine Lacaze  
Daniel Clark, of Astoria, helps his children Hazel, 5, and Fisher, 2, frost cookies during the 2019 Seaside Festival of Trees Community Open House at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center on Dec. 7.



Photos by R.J. Marx  
TOP The Rosenbauer fire truck has a ladder stretching 100 feet. BOTTOM Fire Chief Joey Daniels inspects the new truck.

## New fire truck comes to Seaside

In five-year process, new ladder truck pulls into station

By R.J. MARX  
Seaside Signal

The fire truck is here.

On Friday morning, Dec. 6, firefighters welcomed delivery of the new Rosenbauer 100-foot ladder truck.

The nearly \$1.2 million firefighting apparatus provides five functions: pump, water tank, fire hose, aerial device and ground ladders.

"It will reach the top of WorldMark," Div. Chief David Rankin said.

The tractor-drawn aerial quint — a combination fire truck and fire engine — "meets and exceeds our expectations," Seaside Fire Chief Joey Daniels said as he inspected the vehicle.

The truck delivers navigability down the city's narrow one-way streets and more versatility for firefighters.

At 60-feet long, the ladder truck is still "very maneuverable," Daniels said, because of the steering capabilities of the rear tires. The truck seats six and can store four air packs.

And the bell is "great for parades," Rankin added.

The new arrival comes after a five-year process, approved by the City Council in late 2017.

The department's 75-foot ladder truck remained in use while the new vehicle was built to specifications.

"I want to thank the voters and our committee for the five years it's taken us to put this together, and make it the best utilization for the city of Seaside," Daniels said.

A formal debut will follow. "Our goal is to get it in service and trained on as soon as possible," Daniels said. We want all our people to feel comfortable on the ladder and driving around."

## Making Christmas a little brighter to those behind bars

By EVE MARX  
For Seaside Signal

Did you know there are people serving time in prison who never get a visitor, never get a letter, or receive a Christmas card?

Shirley Yates and her husband Carl are aware of this sad situation and, seven years ago, decided to do something about it.

"Daily, every inmate must stand for mail call whether they have mail or not," Yates said. "Imagine how it feels to never get a letter? To feel, especially at Christmas, to feel so alone and forgotten?" It was a Wednesday night the first week of December and Yates and her husband and about thirty others were at Seaside Coffee on a Christmas card writing mission. "Recently I received a note from an inmate thanking us for last year's card. She wrote, 'It was the only gift I got. I read and re-read it; I can't thank you enough for remembering me.'"



Shirley Yates  
Volunteers Brooke Edgar, Sondra Gomez and Alicia Luna write Christmas cards to those behind bars.

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