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## Gearhart land use fees to jump

Building fees to be next

**By R.J. MARX** Seaside Signal

First on the City Council agenda for 2020: a bump in land use application fees.

The intent is to bring Gearhart's fees in line with other cities, and to meet the cost of processing application fees and planning department resources.

Developers seeking conditional use permits, street vacations and variances could pay fees up to 10 times higher in order to meet the cost of staff reports, maps, legal notices, map searches and appeals, among other tasks.

"This is a project that's been worked on for some time," City Administrator Chad Sweet said. "We're going to talk about building fees and basic permit fees, because we haven't made changes in 20 years."

Sweet said fees failed to cover planning costs, leading to a burden made up by taxpayers. "We want to make sure costs are covered for the city," Sweet said.

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## Council asked to lift downtown parking requirements

Move could spur workforce housing

**By R.J. MARX** Seaside Signal

Seaside could take a step toward a more urban lifestyle, if the City Council adopts an amendment to eliminate or reduce parking requirements throughout the city.

The amendment, a product of Planning Commission work sessions, aims to eliminate parking requirements for aboveground apartments over commercial uses within the downtown core area, and to relax requirements for one-bedroom or studio apartments within all zones.

The aim, Planning Commission Chairman Chris Hoth said at Tuesday's meeting, is to make workforce housing more economical for developers and provide more affordable housing for tenants.

According to Planning Director Kevin Cupples, the current standard specifies two spots per dwelling unit, regardless of the number of bedrooms or where they are located. The requirements place "a significant impact" on the amount of backup land necessary to develop smaller apartments or multifamily dwellings, which in turn drives up the land cost to develop smaller rental housing.

Public Works Director Dale McDowell warned at a previous meeting that an unintended side effect may be parked cars

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R.J. Marx

Visitors to the Cove stand on high ground at Seltzer Park, shortly after high tide Saturday.

**By R.J. MARX** Seaside Signal

fficials blocked off the Cove to traffic midday Saturday, Jan. 11, as the city braced for king tides and potential flooding

tial flooding.

Water crested over the parking area and onto rocks to the south, providing a show of nature that captivated onlookers.

"We're letting them know we have high tides today," Public Works Director Dale McDowell said. "A lot of them aren't aware of it. We're closing the Cove for parking so the debris doesn't end up coming over and damaging vehicles or people"

As McDowell directed traffic, front loaders along Sunset Boulevard readied to remove water and debris swept onto the roadway.

Members of the Seaside Fire Department's water rescue team and volunteers advised spectators to stay on high ground, away from the tides that could move rapidly and without warning.

Plumes rose from the breakers as the

whitecaps swelled offshore and rolled into the Cove.

Wave-watchers skipped back for safety or found higher ground.

Spectators found a safe vantage point at Seltzer Park, greeting the wave show with oohs and aahs, photos and videos, until the tide began to subside.

In downtown Seaside, waves came up to the Turnaround. McDowell added.

While Saturday's waves were the highest of the weekend, crews came out Sunday, too, closing Sunset Boulevard for several hours.



Tiffany Boothe/Seaside Aquarium



R.J. Marx

Debris in the river near Avenue G in Gearhart.

COMMUNITY MOURNS AS ONE CHILD DEAD, ONE MISSING IN FALCON COVE TRAGEDY SEE PAGE A3

## Seaside artist Blue Bond expands to new Broadway space

By EVE MARX

For Seaside Signal

Blue Bond has operated galleries in Taos, New Mexico; Santa Fe, New Mexico; and Vancouver, Washington. But his new space at 613 Broadway in Seaside he considers his most ambitious.

"I started my art career with \$7 and can of paint," Bond said. "And here we are, 50 years later."

In January, Blue Bond officially took over the space that for 15 years has been known as the Gilbert

District Gallery, owned and operated during that time by renowned wildlife artist Dave Bartholet.

Water washing up at the Cove before high tide Saturday.

"I'm keeping the Gilbert District Gallery name in the original gold leaf it was painted on the front window," Bond said. "But I have my own name above it."

The new gallery is a big jump up from his charming but limited space at 417 S. Holladay Drive. He isn't giving that space up. It will be his location for his art school, which offers classes

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Blue Bond and Dave Bartholet are feeling good about the gallery business transfer. "I know it's in the right hands," Bartholet said.

