



Gearhart sets table for fire station bond vote



R.J. Marx

Property on North Marion under consideration for a public safety building.

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

A bond for a new firehouse in Gearhart could go on the ballot as soon as May, but there are a few “ifs.”

At the Wednesday, Feb. 5, City Council meeting, councilors unanimously approved a request for up to \$25,000 from the building reserve fund to coordinate work to date, review materials and prepare a cost estimate for a bond. The city

has about \$142,000 in reserves for these purposes.

“As we’re finishing these points of due diligence, my hope is that we are able to come to a decision sometime soon and perhaps put a new fire station on a bond sometime this year,” Mayor Matt Brown said. “That’s my hope.”

The funds are designed to “triple-check” cost estimates for a new firehouse and resiliency station at the High Point site on North Marion Avenue, City Administrator Chad Sweet said.

Should these estimates, which include the cost for design, geotechnical studies and construction, independently pan out, the city could be eligible for a more favorable bond structure from Business Oregon, the state’s economic development agency.

“We have completed the pre-application and we are working on the longer application,” Sweet said. “One of the requirements is that our estimations have gone

See Fire station, Page A5

FASCINATION



Katherine Lacaze

The fundraiser, which raises money for various phases of the Bob Chisholm Community Center’s renovation, included a pizza dinner, the Fascination competition and raffles.

Bob Chisholm Community Center thrives with a little bit of luck

KATHERINE LACAZE
For Seaside Signal

Of all the fundraisers for community causes hosted by local organizations, the annual Fascination Tournament to benefit the Bob Chisholm Community Center is one of the loudest.

That’s to be expected when more than 30 teams with four members apiece participate in a fast-paced competition to see who comes out ahead while playing a century-old arcade game that relies primarily on luck.

See Fascination, Page A5

Heritage Homes wins land partitions

Planning Commission OKs five-parcel home plan

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

The Seaside Planning Commission gave OKs Feb. 4 for a five-parcel home plan along the west bank of the Necanicum River.

Astoria’s Heritage Home Building Inc. will divide the two Seaside parcels into lots for five single-family homes, three on the 12th Avenue side and two on 13th Avenue.

Each property will have the river in the back, with the front will face the ocean side.

Nathan Johnson, on behalf of his father Ben Johnson, sought approval of the two partitions between 12th Avenue and 13th Avenue.

Heritage plans to build one single-family dwelling on each of the subsequent parcels.

Access to all parcels will be along the western property line.

Public utilities are located on 12th and 13th Avenue, and new water and sewer hookups will be installed to serve the new parcels.

While the 3-acre 12th Avenue parcel could accommodate four lots with attached units under the provisions of the higher density R-3 zone, according to staff documents, the applicant believes “three detached dwellings would be more suited to the neighborhood.”

A proposed 25-foot wide access would run parallel to the west property line and each of the parcels would be oriented east to west.

Residents at the public hearing showed overall support for the home plan, but asked for a look at traffic, parking and sidewalks.

Twelfth Avenue resident Karl Schorr said he was not opposed to the partition, but he was concerned residents might use the access road to the property as a short-cut. “What am I concerned with is you might find traffic is more than you intend. When people find a shorter route, they will take it.”

See Land, Page A5

Mill Ponds community cleanup yields results

Nearly 26 tons of garbage collected

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Volunteers descended upon Mill Ponds in Seaside on Saturday, Feb. 8, inspired by the efforts of 37-year-old commercial fisherman Jesse Anderson to clean up the local habitat.

“I cannot say it enough,” Anderson said on Facebook Saturday. “How thankful I am for the community support and the volunteers that risk their health and injury to be a part of this cleanup.”

Before they left, volunteers collected the amount of garbage equivalent to a Fourth of July cleanup, Seaside’s Public Works

Director Dale McDowell said Monday.

The Public Works Department hauled 50 yards — about 26 tons of garbage — from the Mill Ponds and the boat launch site to Recology in Astoria, McDowell said, with more to come. Employees Jeremy Strimple and Cesar Alcala pitched in using the city dump truck, two dump boxes, a backhoe and mini-excavator. The department also provided garbage bags, nitrile gloves, Sharps containers and long-handled garbage pickers.

Anderson said 32 volunteers collected tires, more than 20 bikes, 30 rims and tires from bikes, a two-gallon bucket of batteries and 500 needles with 50 yards picked by hand and an estimated 500 to 800 picked up by machines in one site deemed unsafe.

Volunteer and former Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District Director Mary Blake “found her very own plaque she had gotten from Providence Hospital,” Anderson said.



LEFT Organizer Jesse Anderson flashes a smile at the Saturday, Feb. 8, cleanup.



RIGHT Joe Sims participates in the Mill Ponds cleanup.

Susan Williams

