

It's official: 45 properties annexed in south Seaside

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Meet your new neighbors. Residents of 45 properties on the south end of town are now official residents of the city of Seaside.

The third and final reading of an ordinance annexing their property on east and west sides of U.S. Highway was unanimously adopted by City Council on Feb. 10. The annexation plan covers 45 properties on Avenue U to Avenue S, about two-thirds of those on the east side of U.S. Highway 101.

"We all have to work together to get these things done and this is a big step forward," Mayor Jay Barber said. "The annexation of south Seaside is some-

thing we've all been passionate about because that is the welcoming corridor into our community."

A separate ordinance exemption allowing the existing Truckee's RV Park to operate as it has before annexation also received a unanimous adoption.

Driving the adoption of the annexation ordinance was the city's longtime goal to eliminate "checkerboard zoning," where neighboring parcels are served by different governments.

Residents now under county jurisdiction would see an increase of about \$1.80 per thousand of their home's assessed value.

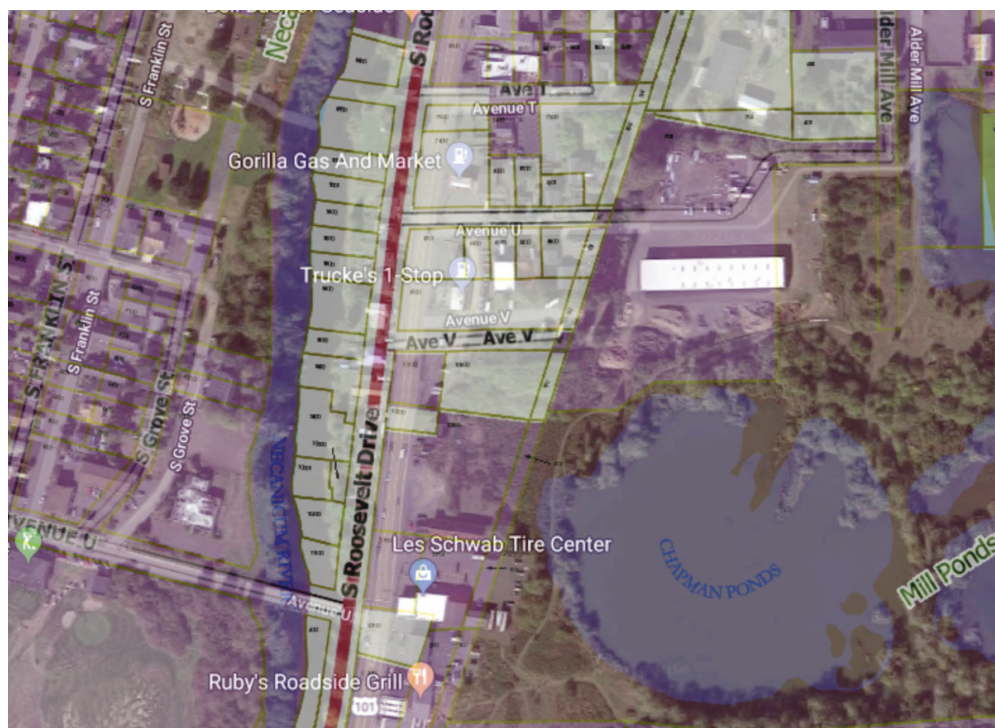
Police service for non-emergencies would shift from the county sheriff's office to the Seaside Police Department.

Sewer, water and other infrastructure projects will be considered in coming months, Winstanley said.

Any improvements or changes in the annexed area, however "are things that everyone who is annexed will have to pay attention to," City Manager Mark Winstanley said.

The most immediate change, City Councilor Tita Montero said, will be a decrease in water rates for annexed properties, as they go from out-of-town customers to in-town customers.

"We're going to see improvements in that area as we come forward," Barber added. "It's going to take time but we'll get there. Change is difficult and it's hard work, but it pays off."



Area of annexation in south Seaside.

City of Seaside

Activities director Grace Lee leaving Sunset Park and Rec District



Grayson Lee and mom Grace Lee. Lee announced her departure from the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District at the Chamber of Commerce morning meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 12.

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Grace Lee is a big reason why "it's easy to Seaside" — as manager of recreation and community programs at Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District, she programs and supervises sports leagues, fitness programs, the farmer's market — even pickleball.

Lee, who came to Seaside in 2014 after serving as recreation leader for the City of Astoria Parks and Recreation Department, announced plans to leave

the North Coast.

Lee will serve as special events director with the city of Hillsboro Parks and Recreation Department, where she will help open a new rec center.

Her takeaway from five years in Seaside?

"This was my first full-time job in park and rec, and I got to do amazing things," Lee said. "Plan awesome events, and do a lot of new recreation activities. And all the people who partnered with me and made it possible — just awesome people to work with."

Members sought for Sunset Empire Park and Rec District budget committee

Seaside Signal

the pool or at <https://www.sunsetempire.com/board>. Applications must be received by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 6, to be eligible.

The Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District is seeking district residents interested in becoming a Budget Committee member for the 2020-21 fiscal year. The commitment is three hours per month (one meeting monthly) starting in April and ending with the budget adoption at the June meeting.

Pick up an application at the front desk of

Contact executive director, Skyler Archibald at 503-738-3311, ext. 103, or by email sarchibald@sunsetempire.com.



Historic photo of the Mill Ponds.

Bringing art, accessibility to Mill Ponds trails

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

On Saturday, April 18, Seaside's Parks Advisory Committee will host "Art in the Parks ... Naturally."

The event is designed to celebrate and raise funds for an ADA-compliant trail in the Seaside Mill Ponds Natural History Park.

The Mill Ponds at the south end of Seaside originated early in the 20th century as rock borrow pits for construction of the Astoria airport; later the ponds became part of a lumber planing and shingle mill operation.

After the mill burned down and the site's new owner proposed a light industrial park at the site, the North Coast Land Conservancy began exploring the possibility of conserving the ponds, which are connected to Neawanna Creek and provide habitat for a wide range of wildlife, including migrating salmon.

The conservancy acquired the site in 1999 and began extensive wetland restoration efforts. The Mill Ponds are now owned by the

city of Seaside and managed for their natural values.

According to Seaside Park Advisory Committee's chair Nancy Holmes, the 30.4-acre park will be more available to the public through ADA-compliant trails and parking area, allowing people with disabilities to access the trails for the first time. Other features include interpretive public art, historical and nature interpretive signage in a peaceful water setting.

The park is the anchor of the Necanicum Estuary History Park, which goes from the Mill Pond to Neawanna Point at the north end of Seaside.

In addition to a celebration at the Mill Ponds, each of Seaside's 12 city parks will be open for guided tours, maps and quizzes from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Necanicum Watershed Council will be at Broadway Park on the Neawanna Creek.

Committee members will present speakers, an art auction and plein air artists along the proposed trail, a barbecue and live music. The "Plant a Tree" campaign will be launched to combat climate change, as the com-

mittee gives 2,020 trees that have been donated to the committee.

"This will be a celebration of our parks," Holmes

said. "Most people don't know we have 14 parks in town. It's a big celebration and we hope to do this every year."

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