Homeless: City Council considers strategies to manage homelessness

Continued from Page A1

because of the coronavirus pandemic. The event provides information and referrals, personal care items and haircuts for the homeless.

Prettyman said food and housing referrals can be found at Providence Seaside

"It's a mini-CCA office in Seaside," Matthews said. She said bringing additional services to Seaside are within reach.

The Astoria Warming Center is based in the First United Methodist Church and provides overnight shelter during the winter months for people experiencing homelessness.

A warming center open 90 days a year in Seaside would be an "outstanding thing to do," Matthews said.
"We just have to get the right people helping CCA to see if we can open a warming center in Seaside.'

What is homelessness?

"house-"Homeless." less," "unsheltered" are all different ways of saying the exact same thing, Matthews said. "We don't have one specific word that will cover all of it."

There are some different definitions of homelessness and Clatsop Community Action serves them all, Prettyman said.

"Remember homelessness doesn't look the same to everybody. It's oftentimes our friends and families and co-workers," Prettyman said. "Be open-minded to what homelessness is and have a deep desire to want to see change in your community.'

Jason Boyd, assistant



Susan Prettyman, lower left, and Viviana Matthews, lower right, address members of the Seaside City Council on behalf of Clatsop Community Action.

principal for Seaside High School, said many homeless families do not fit common preconceptions.

"Stereotypically we think of homelessness as the tent on the side of the road or people holding up a sign," Boyd said. "The vast majority of the homeless that we see in our schools is the family of five that's living in a Suburban that finds a new when night falls, they try to find another spot to park. That's a real issue for a lot of families in our community."

Boyd works with the school district's population to connect them with food, shelter and education.

"A good percentage of the kids classified as homeless are either doubled up in our community or living in a hotel."

'BE OPEN-MINDED TO WHAT HOMELESSNESS IS AND HAVE A **DEEP DESIRE TO WANT TO SEE** CHANGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY.'

Susan Prettyman, Clatsop Community Action social services program manager

parking lot every night in the city of Seaside to park.

"Then during the day they get their Chromebooks out and have a hot spot that's given to them by the school. the Chromebooks. Their kids go to school and do the best they can and

Boyd said Clatsop Community Action provides help to meet those costs. "Without that massive support from CCA, a lot of our student population would go unserved and really, really struggle. And now, with COVID, we're seeing lots

and lots of struggle everywhere for all of our kids.'

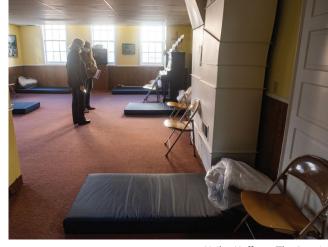
A shelter in Seaside would be "super beneficial for our community," he said. "I know it would fill up really fast if we had one."

Homeless liaison

The goal of the homeless liaison will be to connect the unsheltered population to services, work with police departments to address challenging behaviors and connect the homeless populations to services and their safety net, Matthews said.

The idea of a countywide homeless services coordinator was born out of an Astoria task force on homelessness. The position will be funded by the state, Clatsop County, grants and other partner agencies.

"We have five really good candidates, she said. We're essentially making sure we're addressing behaviors that some homeless individuals are showing and want to make sure we keep our county as clean as possible, as healthy as pos-



Hailev Hoffman/The Astorian

Kathleen Sullivan, the Astoria Warming Center's executive director, and shelter manager Cheryl Paul inspect the sleeping mats — set up 6 feet apart — to encourage social distancing. Councilors seek a similar resource in Seaside.



Seaside Police Department

A homeless encampment in Seaside.

sible for all of us, including

the homeless population." City Councilor Tita Montero said she saw the presentation as part of a continuing

has brought masks and social

distancing to every phase

of life, but CODA remains

"completely available" to

patients and new patients

continue to enter every week,

she said. "We have not had

any COVID transmission,

ness at the top of its goals

Seaside has put homeless-

which has been fantastic."

dialogue.

"I'm looking for ways to keep the discussion alive," she said. "If we don't keep discussions alive, we won't get to strategies. We want things to improve."

Addiction: Temporary, safe housing considered a first step to recovery

Continued from Page A1

tions and Clatsop County. CODA does not provide a needle exchange, a service provided by the county and local hospitals.

"As an industry, our weakness is the we sit at the front door and wait for people to come to us," Noice said. "The model needs to change. I think of it as the 'pre-work.' Before you start treating somebody, how can you reach them enough to see the value of trying?

The Seaside clinic operates from 5:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Of 108 active CODA patients at the Seaside facility, 92% of them are housed or temporarily housed.

But for those ing in encampments or on the streets, housing is an important step in beginning recovery.

"I have a hard time imagining how someone finds the motivation to begin recovery without a place to live," she said. "Temporary safe, low-barrier housing is often a strategy that works for a

Continued from Page A1

So far, respondents listed

the Ridge Path and Lesley

Miller Dunes Meadow Park

as the most frequently vis-

ited parks, committee mem-

ber Austin Tomlinson said

at last Wednesday's committee meeting. "That's

something we should start

thinking about in the mas-

munity center, restrooms,

more trash cans and more

indoor space, among other

ties included walking,

dog-walking, sports and

Respondents seek a com-

gardens,

activi-

ter plan.

community

features. Favorite



A Sharps container, designed to hold needles, in the Mill



Alison

CODA Noice, executive





list. Noice plans to take a role

"As a treatment provider, on behalf of our patients, we do have some expectation we are contributing," Noice said. "To our community, we know what happens around methadone maintenance. There's still a lot of education that needs to happen, and some relationship-building that I would like to see us do. There's a



Exterior of the CODA building on U.S. Highway 101 in Seaside.

Parks: 'We're getting a lot of really good input'

lot of people. Some people will begin to thrive simply because they start to build

Big things that have

stood out, Tomlinson said,

include calls for more trash

receptacles, better park

wildlife viewing.

that back into their daily routine. There's an opportunity there to say, 'OK, today is

spending on existing parks

and 67% were in favor of

more spending on future

The survey is limited to

the day that we decide to go

further.' The COVID-19 pandemic

seek approval of the draft

parks master plan in March

before referral to the Plan-

to collect here is qualita-

tive information that adds

more voices to the dis-

cussion," Van Hoomissen

said. "We're more trying to

get a sense of community

views, and I think the sur-

vey is working really well

to accomplish that. We're

getting a lot of really good

input. I view it as a work-

in-progress and look for-

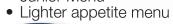
ning Commission.

"What we're

Great Restaurants in: **GEARHART • SEASIDE** CANNON BEACH

WANT TO KNOW WHERE THE LOCALS GO?

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner Junior Menu





Fish 'n Chips • Burgers • Seafood & Steak Friday & Saturday - Prime Rib All Oregon Lottery products available

1104 S Holladay • 503-738-9701 • Open 9am-7pm, closed Tuesday





THE SURVEY IS LIMITED TO GEARHART RESIDENTS, WITH A

MARCH 1 DEADLINE.

parks.

maintenance and opposition to beach driving.

"It seems there are a number of people who don't like the beach driving around 10th Street," Tomlinson said.

Eighty-two percent of respondents favored more Gearhart residents, with a March 1 deadline.

The committee will continue to meet the third Wednesday of the month through June via Zoom. The next meeting is Feb.

The committee plans to

Help your local businesses! Please Cash In

ward to more coming.'

Your Rolled Coin! Coin Wrappers available upon request.

Blodgett named to dean's list at George Fox University

Seaside Signal

Niquilla Blodgett of Seaside was among those who

at George Fox University for the fall 2020 semester. Traditional undergraduate students must earn a 3.5 grade point

earned dean's list recognition

more hours of graded work to

earn a spot on the dean's list. Blodgett is a junior majoring in elementary education.

average or above on 12 or Bank of the Pacific FOIC BankofthePacific.com