



Seaside lays out long-term goals, priorities

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

At a goal-setting session in January 2019, the city aimed to reestablish its community emergency response team, stream live meetings and work with the school district to bring a reservoir to the new campus. They helped accomplish all three. The CERT team is in operation and populated with volunteers, meetings are presented electronically on the city's youtube channel, and the reservoir at the new campus are complete.

"Our feeling is, if you set goals, they need to be measured and accounted for," Mayor Jay Barber said at the time.

Monday night the City Council presented this year's goals list. Working with a consultant, the council met in January over a two-day period to project goals for the next two to four years.

Housing returned with

a goal to continue focus on development of housing opportunities in Seaside.

That category has been expanded, City Councilor Steve Wright said, from a focus on workforce housing to include the "gamut of housing."

The city will develop strategies to address homelessness as a way to improve quality of life in Seaside, and will seek opportunities to address addiction and mental health issues. "It's so vastly needed," City Councilor Dana Phillips said. "It's not just the homeless."

The list, which breaks down the vision to five categories: economic, infrastructure, operations, resiliency and quality of life. Resiliency, evacuation and bridge replacements are major long-term goals returning to the to-do list.

"The statistics when the next tsunami hits are variable, some are near term

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LOVE IS IN THE AIR

Neal Maine/Pacific Light Images

For two Seaside osprey, love is in the air. A male and female returned to the Broadway Park this week and began nest repair after winter storms, photographer Neal Maine said. Along with large sticks and other natural materials, osprey build their nests with Styrofoam, bailing twine, rope and plastic containers.

Chamber honors the city's best businesses

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Brian Owen and Ken Heman hosted the Seaside Chamber Annual Awards and Auction from the Seaside Civic and Convention Center last Thursday, streamed to more than 70 viewers.

came with the delivery of the chamber's top honor, Business of the Year award to Pataraporn "Patta" Lorwatcharasophon and her husband, Dacha "Kim" Pathumratathan. The family operates Thai Me Up, and during the coronavirus pandemic, opened the SEA in Seaside, and the SEA Crab House and Raw Bar in Astoria.

'THANK YOU AGAIN EVERYBODY FOR DOING YOUR PART IN THIS AWESOME COMMUNITY!'

— Ken Heman
Seaside Visitors Bureau

"It's all about the community," Heman, visitors information specialist at the Seaside Visitors Bureau, said. "It's about you, and the businesses in this community. Last year was once again one of those awesome years where the community of Seaside really showed how everybody could come together, step up and do what needs to be done to continue to be a successful community."

The evening's highlight

The challenges to the chamber came as a result of the pandemic, chamber CEO Owen said.

"March was the month we all got scared," Owen said. "No one really knew what was coming at us. I remember receiving an onslaught of emails. I quit counting. It just kept going through April and it just kept going and going. Information changed daily."

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Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District

Children enjoying the gym at the Sunset Recreation Center.

Preschool begins at rec center

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Preschool classes began last Monday at the Sunset Recreation Center. Staff has been working this week on transitioning the all youth programs to that facility, Skyler Archibald, executive director of the Sunset Empire Park and Rec-

reation District, said at last Tuesday's board meeting.

"We will be able to have two preschool classrooms over there as well as our kindergarten classroom two classrooms that are dedicated for that first through fifth grade," he said.

Preschoolers will have "a little more room to stretch their legs" at the

former Broadway Middle School, with the opportunity to use classrooms, cafeteria and gym space.

"The district is really working hard to provide programming during this time of COVID," Archibald said. "Not a day goes by where I am not impressed by the work of staff in ensuring that we have a safe environment

for our patrons."

The lap swim and other aquatic programs are operating at an 85% to 95% participation rate, he said. Swim lessons return May 1.

The district hosts its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday from 10 a.m. to noon at Broadway Field for the district's community egg hunt. The event is free.

Newsome brings passion for books

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Micah Newsome, his girlfriend and two Boston terriers drove from Augusta, Georgia, to Seaside in the midst of the pandemic last summer.

"It was a joint decision. She has family in Washington County and we both like the area," said Newsome, Seaside's assistant librarian. "We both applied for jobs before moving, and planned to move if either of us was offered a position. We

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R.J. Marx

Micah Newsome, assistant library director at the Seaside Library.

Students put campus to test

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

It's showtime at the new Seaside High School and Seaside Middle School campus, as the new building recently debuted for high schoolers.

The new building, the product of a \$99.7 million bond from voters passed in 2016 to move schools out of the tsunami zone, received a certificate of occupancy from Bob Mitchell, Seaside's director of building and code enforcement, in March.

Construction project manager Jim Henry told the Seaside School District board in March that students

and staff were field-testing doors, windows, carpet and bathrooms.

"We're getting a few reports of things that need some assistance, but that's not unusual when everyone moves back in," Henry said.

Science room ventilation, high school gym floor repair and "hurricane hardware" — door seals, door bottoms and sweeps — are among tasks ahead, Henry said.

Exterior remediation is 95% complete, Henry said, a process that replaced 22,000 linear square feet of weather barrier after the first application failed to meet specifications. Cost for repair is covered by insurance under Hoffman Construction.

Athletic field drainage

issues are sorted out, and field reseeding was set to take place in late March or April.

The intergovernmental agreement between the school district and the city for the reservoir property above the school was completed last Friday. The 3.28-acre reservoir site, part of 130 acres donated to the school district by Weyerhaeuser Co. in 2016 prior to the bond vote, was annexed by the city in October.

Budgeted at \$5.56 million, the 5-million gallon reservoir project totaled \$5.84 million after change orders. The reservoir provides water to the new middle school and high school

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