



Gearhart takes a second look at firehouse location

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Threats of litigation at the proposed High Point location on North Marion Avenue and a reluctant seller are among the reasons Gearhart is looking at new sites for the city's firehouse.

They may have found one at the Cottages at Gearhart, a proposed 30-acre subdivision off of Highlands Lane, north of the city. Developers hope to swap part of the property to the city for a firehouse in exchange for bringing the property into the urban growth boundary and annexed into the city.

Peter Watts, the city's attorney, said at the City Council's meeting last Wednesday that the developers have indicated they're willing to donate a portion of the property as well as land for a public park.

"If our land is brought into the urban growth boundary and annexed into the city, we will end up with additional buildable

lots, given the city's zoning," Steve Olstedt, of the Cottages at Gearhart LLC, wrote in a letter to the city. "It will also allow the city to 'loop' the city's water adding redundancy to the system. If the property can be brought into the UGB and city, we are willing to donate land for the fire station and a public park. This will save the city over \$3 million as well as all the legal expenses associated with the other site."

Land within the city's urban growth boundary could be exchanged for land outside the urban growth boundary on an acre-to-acre ratio, Watts said.

The exchange would allow the developer to go from 1-acre zoning to 10,000-square-foot or four units per acre.

City lots in the exchange could come from a portion of the "no-build" area along Gearhart's western edge.

The proposal comes at a time when the High Point

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Highlands site hinges on urban growth boundary

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

The search for a fire station site in Gearhart got a boost with the proposed donation of 5 acres off U.S. Highway 101 just north of the city.

Cottages at Gearhart LLC hopes to exchange two lots outside Gearhart's urban growth boundary with the city for use as a park and a new firehouse and resiliency station. Approval for the process must first pass muster with the state's Department of Land Conservation and Development, which oversees the administrative process. Once land is included in an urban growth boundary, it is eligible for annexation to the city.

"It will include a very close look by the state Department of Land Conservation and Development," City Planner Carole Connell said at last Thursday's Planning Commission meeting. "Expanding the urban growth boundary will be the test. It can be done."

The developer plans 39

to 40 houses in the neighboring 30-acre development, City Administrator Chad Sweet said.

"If they could get into the UGB, they said they would donate to the city of Gearhart 5 acres of property in two different lots to the city," he said. "One lot would be a buffer between this neighborhood and Pine Ridge Drive, with 3 acres of parkland that would be donated and designated as park."

As long as the land remains in Clatsop County, developers are limited to two lots per acre, Sweet said.

If they were to come into the Gearhart urban growth boundary, developers could build on four lots per acre.

In 2015, a proposal by former owners to annex the property into the city was turned down by the City Council, saying that the property should be in the urban growth boundary before being annexed to the city.

The Cottages at Gearhart LLC purchased the property in 2018 for \$649,000.

Seaside High School presents 'The Addams Family'

By KATHERINE LACAZE
For Seaside Signal

They're creepy and they're spooky, and they're coming to life on stage: It's the Addams Family.

Seaside High School's drama program will be live-streaming their rendition of this morbidly classic and endearing tale at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday and April 22, 23 and 24.

"Instead of coming to the high school, and sitting in a live audience, you can sit in the privacy of your own home and watch it," said director Ann Susee, who teaches English and drama at the high school.

"The Addams Family: School Edition" tells the story of a grown-up Wednesday Addams, played by junior Kaiya Taylor, who has fallen in love with a "normal" man named Lucas Beineke, played by junior Olivia Mayhugh. Things get complicated when the Beineke family comes to dinner to meet the Addams family. With the help of the Addams Ancestors, who are locked out of their graves until they can help the young couple, everything turns out as it should by the end.

"I've always liked the story; it's quirky and fun," Susee said, adding there's



Seaside School District photos

"The Addams Family," presented by Seaside High School.

an abundance of memorable songs and characters.

The cast includes junior Sophia Reynolds as Gomez Addams; junior Gracie Klemp as Morticia Addams; freshman Kyleigh Griffin as Pugsley Addams; senior Lucas Ethridge as Fester Addams; sophomore Eva Baiely as Grandma Addams; junior Skylar Archibald as Lurch; junior Harmony Brady as Mal Beineke; junior Alice Beineke; and middle schoolers Hayley Archibald, Katelyn Cox, Leonard Hoge, Braedyn Griffin, Ayaunna Bolin and

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Seaside juniors Gracie Klemp and Sophia Reynolds play Morticia Addams and Gomez Addams in the school's upcoming production.

Park district aims to hire consultant

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Help wanted: Feasibility consultant for the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District.

On March 30 the park district delivered a request for proposal seeking a consultant for a comprehensive strategy at the Sunset Recreation Center. According to the request, the district is accepting proposals for a consultant to assist with the process of guiding the district in developing a comprehensive strategy to determine the highest and best use for the former Broadway Middle School building that "advances the district's vision, mission and objectives."



R.J. Marx

The middle school was sold to the park district for \$2.15 million in January as Seaside School District properties relocated to the new Spruce Drive location outside of the tsunami inundation zone.

The consultant selected will be expected to provide strategic planning, market-

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District is seeking interested and qualified firms to submit proposals that can guide, facilitate and develop a comprehensive strategy to determine the highest and best use for the Broadway Middle School building that advances its vision, mission and objectives.

ing and statistical analysis of the facility.

Programming, economic impacts and land use will be among topics of the final report. Authors will be expected to analyze ways to increase child care options, expand indoor

recreation options for all residents, and contribute to the local economy through a sports tourism strategy, including camps or clinics.

The report will be expected to identify grants, collaborative investment agreements and tenant improvement contributions available to the district.

"This is referring to a partner that might have aspirations of partnering with the district for a part of the property and was willing to contribute revenues to the district for that and-or other improvements," Skyler Archibald, executive director of the park district, said.

The board selection See Consultant, Page A6

Hill named city treasurer, water clerk

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal



Justine Hill

Gearhart City Council reshuffled its office staff, adding the title of recorder to the tasks of executive administrative assistant Krysti Ficker, and selecting longtime Seaside School District Business Manager Justine Hill as the city treasurer and water clerk.

"From the beginning, one candidate stood out from the pack," City Administrator Chad Sweet said. "City staff is extremely impressed with Justine."

Gail Como, who announced her retirement early this year, served as treasurer, water clerk and administrative assistant.

Ficker will take on the role of city recorder. "With treasury, water, and general admin falling under one position, it makes sense to partner recording with executive administra-

tion," staff wrote. The city recorder is not a city official but appointed by the city administrator. Duties include taking City Council meeting minutes, preparing meeting packets, publishing notices, announcing and filling vacancies and handling public record requests.

Ficker will receive a salary increase to reflect the increase in workload and responsibilities.

Hill, who served as business manager as the Seaside School District, helped the district navigate a \$99.7 million bond for the new campus, was selected unanimously. "Her reference check couldn't have been more

positive," Mayor Paulina Cockrum said.

The city published an employment application on the city website and advertised for the position on the city blog, in The Astorian and Seaside Signal, on Workforce Oregon, and ZipRecruiter. Seventeen applications were received and the interviews were conducted.

The treasurer serves as secretary to the City Council, attends all its meetings unless excused by the mayor, keeps an accurate record of its proceedings and sign all orders on the treasury, along with the mayor or, in the absence of the mayor, the council president.

Miss Oregon program to return

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

The Miss Oregon Scholarship Program will be back in Seaside with the 68th annual program at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center June 16 through June 19.

Director Beth McShane said the program will be a hybrid event, with both a live audience and livestream virtual event. In-person events will be conducted under the Oregon Health Authority's guidance for indoor entertainment.



Miss Oregon

Shivali Kadam, Miss Oregon 2019 and Marin Gray, Miss Oregon's Outstanding Teen 2019.

In 2020, directors of the Miss Oregon and Miss Oregon Outstanding Teen competitions canceled

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