

Lack of housing leaves businesses short-staffed



Ruth Swenson at a business recovery meeting hosted by City Councilor David Posalski last week. Businesses in Seaside say their biggest problem is staffing.

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Seaside continues to wrestle with two of its biggest goals: the needs of local businesses and affordable housing for those who work in the city. Two May forums showed the greatest need for businesses is staffing.

City Councilor David Posalski, a business forum co-host who owns Tsunami Sandwich, said the lack of workforce housing continues to impact business operations throughout Seaside.

Construction, including a 40-unit housing development on South Wahanna, will help meet some need, Posalski said at Monday's City Council meeting. But affordability and a lack of buildable land within the urban growth boundary

remains a key factor. As long as demand outstrips supply, housing prices are going to continue to rise.

"It's at a higher level than we are, but it's something that definitely needs to be figured out," he said. "As a city moving forward, how can we make the most of residential property?"

Mayor Jay Barber commended city staff for working with restaurants, bars and hotels during the pandemic to help them bounce back. Last April, the City Council took action to deliver a relief package for local businesses and residents. Less than a month later, the city approved \$250,000 in relief for businesses that suffered economic harm from government restrictions amid the pandemic. As COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, Sea-

side has seen a surge in new business.

But finding places for employees to live is a "real challenge," Barber said. "We need to work together to try to figure out how to provide housing really for our industry that funds our community's tourism industry."

Because of the lack of affordable housing, even those with jobs may live in encampments in city parks, cars or vans. This month the city addressed occupied vehicles parking overnight on Necanicum Drive. And despite city efforts, encampments continue to pop up at the Mill Ponds.

City Councilor Tita Montero, who has hosted a series of workshops on homelessness, said no matter how many housing units are built, if they are unaffordable for the workforce, "then

that's only going to create more of a problem."

Additional workshops to address homelessness are scheduled at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center on June 3 and July 1, each at 6 p.m.

The June workshop aims to invite ideas "no matter how pie in the sky they may be," Montero said. "It's all to take in, not to decide and make judgments."

The July workshop, led by the League of Oregon Cities, seeks to understand and work within the framework of state laws regarding the homeless population.

"What do those laws mean, and how can we look at making sure we operate within those laws?" Montero said. "It's an overlay for what we do as we work with our homelessness issues in the future."

PUBLIC SAFETY LOG



May 14
8:11 a.m., 1800 block N. Columbia: People sleeping in their cars are told to clean up their trash mess and move on.
4:47 p.m., 400 block N. Holladay: Property crimes are reported.
5:03 p.m., 400 block Avenue U: Property crimes are reported.

May 15
12:37 a.m., Safeway Parking: A person is arrested and charged with driving under the influence of intoxicants.
4:29 p.m., 12th and Necanicum: A person is arrested on a warrant.

May 16
9:55 a.m., 12th and Necanicum: Caller reports transient female yelling and causing a disturbance. The caller conveys to police her frustration with homeless gathering

in her neighborhood. The reported female is unable to be located.
4:13 p.m., Wahanna and Shore Terrace: A person is arrested on a warrant.
6:02 p.m., 3700 block W. Chinook: Police assist Cannon Beach police.
9:30 p.m., Sixth and Downing: Caller reports person sleeping in their van; the person left the area after the caller confronted him.

May 17
12:44 a.m., 700 block Broadway: Fire investigation.
1:47 a.m., 1700 block S. Downing: Unauthorized entry of a motor vehicle is reported.
11:56 a.m., 500 block S. Columbia: Caller reports someone entered their car without their permission.
11:58 a.m., 1700 block S. Prom: Unauthorized entry of a motor vehicle is reported.
12:18 p.m., Boat Ramp, Broadway Park: Police attempt to help a seagull with a fishing hook caught in its foot. The seagull was uncooperative.

May 18
11:09 a.m., Avenue S and Roosevelt: Subject reported in the middle of the road is warned of disorderly conduct and still refuses to leave. He is cited.
12:40 p.m., 1900 block Spruce Drive: Caller reports neighbor is poisoning her dog. Police say the accusation is unfounded.
8:06 p.m., Fifth Avenue: An assault is reported.

May 19
9:49 a.m., 2200 block S. Prom: A person is arrested for violating a restraining order.
4:53 p.m., 1900 block S. Downing: Caller requests welfare check on her mother who she's been unable to reach by phone. Police contact the woman who said she was napping and she will call her daughter.

May 20
6:11 a.m., 800 block Avenue M: Woman reports a man opening her screen door before she opened the door after he knocked. Police contacted

the man who was parked in the area and said he knocked on the wrong door.
7:20 p.m., 12th Avenue Bridge: People reported camping are actually just fishing.
9:06 p.m., 800 block Fifth Avenue: A deceased person is reported.

May 21
3:18 p.m., Police headquarters: A person came in to register as a sex offender.
11:12 p.m., 1000 block Avenue F: A disabled vehicle left overnight in a lot of reported as suspicious. Police talk to the occupants who say they will contact the property owner in the morning.

May 22
7:47 a.m., 12th and Wahanna: Caller reports a golf cart being operated on the roadway. Police are unable to locate.
5:47 p.m., First and Prom: Intoxicated subjects are reported, one for urinating on someone's lawn. Police were unable to locate.
8:54 p.m., Wahanna: A person is arrested on a warrant.



May 14
11:40 a.m., Avenue A: Emergency medical response.

May 15
6:28 a.m., 1200 block Avenue D: Emergency medical response.

May 16
4:44 a.m., 200 block N. Downing: Emergency medical response.

May 19
5:30 a.m., Forest Drive: Emergency medical response.
8:12 p.m., 1600 block S. Edgewood: Emergency medical response.

May 20
3:01 a.m., 400 block Second Avenue: Emergency medical response.
11:11 p.m., 1000 block N. Holladay: Emergency medical response.

May 21
1:31 p.m., 1100 block N. Roosevelt: Emergency medical response.

May 22
6:22 a.m., Red Barn/Oster Road: Structure fire.
10:09 a.m., 600 block S. Edgewood: Emergency medical response.



Two-car crash
A two-car crash occurring in a highway work zone May 18 at 2:22 p.m., on U.S. Highway 101 by milepost 13 damaged both vehicles but not enough to call for tow. The driver of one car traveling westbound navigating a downhill curve saw the car traveling in front of it brake hard to avoid hitting highway workers. That driver slammed on her brakes but collision was unavoidable at this point. A citation was issued to a 75-year-old Seaside man.

Seaside

When people share their time, treasure and talent, the benefits spread throughout the entire community. In celebration of this culture of generosity, we thank the tremendous work of nonprofits, volunteers and donors who help improve the lives of all Oregonians.

JUST A FEW OF THE 315 NORTH COAST GRANTS AWARDED IN 2020:

- Lincoln County Child and Family Day Treatment
- The Harbor
- Vernonia Cares Food Bank
- Centro de Ayuda
- Oregon Coast Council for the Arts
- Sitka Center for Art and Ecology
- Tumblewheel Studios
- Astoria Arts and Movement Center
- Amani Center
- Community Action Team Inc.
- Columbia, Clatsop and Tillamook Counties
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
- Consejo Hispano
- Turning Point Community Service Center
- Innovative Housing, Inc.
- Toledo Public Library

NORTH COAST 2020 LOCAL IMPACT TOTALS:

- Grants and Scholarships: **\$5.3M**
- Grants: **315**
- Scholarships: **138**
- Value of Endowment: **\$26.7M**
- Volunteers: **68**
- Funds: **90**