



Vehicles parked in a city-owned lot on Necanicum between 10th and 11th avenues.

R.J. Marx

OPERATION LEVY

Seaside Fire eyes extension

Levy would fund training tower, apparatus, officer

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

This is the fifth year of the Seaside Fire Department's local operation levy, designed to help finance apparatus and staff. If approved by City Council in June, the levy will return to voters in November for renewal.

The last operation levy, passed in 2017, approved \$2 million over five years for fire equipment and personnel, including self-contained breathing apparatus, a new ladder truck and funding for the department's training and safety officer, David Rankin.

This is not a new levy, rather a continuation of a tax the voters are paying already, Chief Joey Daniels said at last Wednesday's Seaside Chamber of Commerce morning meeting.

Funds would be used to replace the department's pumper tender, reaching the end of its 20- to 25-year expected life, he said. The truck was purchased by the department in 2004.

The levy would continue to support the salary of the training and safety officer.

The department also hopes to use funds to finance a training tower, to be installed at the Public Works Department, where the city currently trains. "We have not finalized the exact cost of this yet and will present that at the City Council meeting in June," Daniels said.

The new tower would provide live fire training, essential for the department to maintain its national insurance rating, Daniels said, currently among the lowest homeowner insurance ratings in the region.

Mark Winstanley, the city manager, said the rating has a direct impact on fire insurance costs. "Remember, it's having a direct impact on your fire insurance for your property," Winstanley said. "And so even though it's costing you a little money in your property taxes, it's saving you money on the insurance."

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CAMPING ORDINANCE HEADS TO CITY COUNCIL

City narrows overnight homeless RV sites

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

On Monday, the City Council will hold a public hearing and first reading of a new ordinance to regulate overnight RV parking in selected city locations. Seaside is mapping out places where vans or motor homes could be permitted to stay overnight.

At a March 30 meeting of the Houseless Task Force, members narrowed down the locations and with other corrections, hoped to bring the proposed ordinance before the City Council.

The new rules come as the city faces pressure to clear a makeshift RV camp used by the homeless on city property at Necanicum Drive between 10th and

11th avenues. Last week authorities responded to a spill from a leaking tank from one of the motor homes.

The material was taken to the city's wastewater treatment plant for disposal.

Mayor Jay Barber said the spill showed the need for an overnight camping ordinance.

"I'm concerned about making sure we protect the rights of the people that are camping there," the mayor said. "But I'm also concerned that we protect the rights of the citizens that live in the houses that are housed around them. And I worry a bit about the liability for the city. I sense a kind of a boiling pot there. And I'm concerned about it."

Cities are trying to balance legal concerns with the practical challenges of responding to homelessness. Court rulings and state law make it difficult to restrict homeless camping in public places if there are not adequate shelter beds available.

The task force, an outgrowth of a year of public forums on homelessness, aims to produce legislation that will clear overnight camping on city property by creating permitted alternatives. Vehicles, including vans or motor homes, would need to be registered in compliance with vehicle insurance responsibilities.

The ordinance in Seaside would require people to obtain permits to camp and limit the hours from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m.

"They're there for 12 hours, and then it's going to be time to move along and go somewhere else during the day," Chief Dave Ham, a member of the Seaside Houseless Task Force, said.

Vehicles, including vans or motor homes, would need to be registered in compliance with vehicle insurance responsibilities.

"We're all playing on the same playing field," Ham said. "And so in

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CITIES ARE TRYING TO BALANCE LEGAL CONCERNS WITH THE PRACTICAL CHALLENGES OF RESPONDING TO HOMELESSNESS. COURT RULINGS AND STATE LAW MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO RESTRICT HOMELESS CAMPING IN PUBLIC PLACES IF THERE ARE NOT ADEQUATE SHELTER BEDS AVAILABLE.

Celebrating the unique quality of Seaside

What's happening at the Seaside Museum

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Once upon a time Seaside was a summer destination for visitors from Portland and beyond, delivered to the city via the daddy train. The train has long stopped running and U.S. Highway 26 is the preferred route, but the Seaside Museum & Historical Society still highlights the city's days gone by through its archives, events



R.J. Marx

Advertising image from the 1930s in Seaside.

and exhibits. Established in 1974, the museum offers a visual montage of Seaside's unique

mix of history, tourism and commerce, with special celebrations like the Prom Centennial, the Fourth of July Old-Fashioned Social and Holiday Tea.

"Lulu's," curated by board member and City Councilor Tita Montero, pays tribute to an iconic, giant advertising image that hung in Harrison's Bakery for many years. Along with new exhibits, visitors will see familiar galleries featuring the Seaside Fire Department, the Seaside Signal's original printing press and a diorama depicting Seaside as it was in 1899.

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Education service district, Sunset Recreation Center assess future lease deal

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

A landlord-tenant relationship at the Sunset Recreation Center seems to be taking off. The former Broadway Middle School transformed into child care, athletic facilities and office space after the purchase of the building in January 2021.

The Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District Board of Directors took a look at the agreement at last Tuesday's meeting.

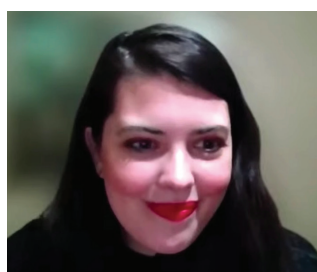
Lease talks have only been informal conversa-

tions at this point, park district executive director Skyler Archibald said after the meeting.

"From the staff perspective, the relationship with NWRESA seems to be working well and is mutually beneficial," Archibald said. "They're very interested in the property. They understand kind of our timing. I shared with them that if we proceeded we would be hesitant to sign a long-term lease but something short term, maybe 12 to 24 months, and they were very open to that."

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Armitage shares legislative insights with Seaside City Council



Rachel Armitage via Zoom speaking with members of City Council.

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

State Senator Rachel Armitage paid her first visit to Seaside as a member of the Legislature.

Armitage spoke via Zoom to the City Council in March, stressing successful road projects, child care, the Private Forest Accord and broadband funds.

"It's basically setting up a framework for how we are going to distribute the

over \$200 million of federal broadband funds that are coming to Oregon," Armitage said. "That's something that is of high importance to this district, sort of all over."

Armitage will finish the term of former state Sen. Betsy Johnson, the prominent and influential Scappoose Democrat who announced her independent gubernatorial run in October and resigned from the Senate in December to focus on her campaign.

County commission-

ers from within the district appointed Armitage from a group of three finalists.

The term runs through 2022.

With the completion of the Legislature's short session, Armitage described "a lot of bipartisan work" toward state policy initiatives.

The private forest accord comes after decades of conflict between environmentalists and private timber industry professionals.

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Cafeteria at the Sunset Recreation Center.

R.J. Marx

