

A parade day with special significance

SEEN FROM SEASIDE
R.J. MARX



The holiday brought the anticipated crowds, as the day after the air held the whiff of spent fireworks and volunteers handed out trash bags at beach entrances.

On Monday morning, before the parade, Dale McDowell, the public works director, was stationed at Broadway and Holladay for set-up.

“This is normal routine for setting up for parades,” McDowell said. “We’ve got the intersection coned off so traffic can flow around it. And everybody seems to be getting in position for the parade.”

A FRIEND AT THE SEASIDE PARADE SAID TO ME, ‘ARE YOU WORKING OR HERE TO ENJOY THE PARADE?’ I ANSWERED, ‘BOTH.’

The parade route was shorter this year; starting from Necanicum east to Holladay before heading to Broadway.

Meanwhile at the beach crews were already preparing for Monday night’s fireworks by cleaning up fire pits and getting the beat secured, he said.

Shortly after 10 a.m., a Seaside police officer led Boy Scouts, fire trucks and the subsequent cavalcade along the parade route, as visitors and parade-watchers raised flags and cheered.

In Gearhart, the city was packed along the parade route, from 10th Street and North Marion to Pacific Way and Cottage. Children, their parents and grandparents saluted the Fourth with music, dancing and candy along the way.

Although I was covering the parades for the newspaper, the morning began with news of a parade shooting in Highland Park, Illinois. I lived in Highland Park from the age of 7 to 15. The town in the 1960s and ’70s looked very different. But the spirit remains.

A friend at the Seaside parade said to me, “Are you working or here to enjoy the parade?” I answered, “Both.” I’ve been in touch with my Highland Park friends. The network is still close-knit. One of my childhood friends told me he was at the parade. He briefly told me what he saw. I’m not sure if he has processed it yet. I certainly haven’t.

I’m grateful our local parades were peaceful.



Mo’s passes out treats for kids. Neawanna by the Sea march behind at the Seaside parade.

R.J. Marx



The Gearhart Street Walkers march up Pacific Way.

R.J. Marx



Sons of Beaches’ Shore Patrol at the Seaside parade.

R.J. Marx



Bob McEwan, Shannon Smith and Pancho in the Gearhart parade.

R.J. Marx

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Balance needed

Possibly based on a lack of foresight in 2018, the Clatsop County Land Use Planning Office, as well as the board of commissioners, illegally allowed the first short-term rental to open for business in a residential coastal neighborhood in Clatsop County. The decision let the proverbial horse out of the barn, and this horse is not going back in the barn quietly and likely not at all.

Fast forward and commissioners have come up with the purported solution to this earlier miscalculation, Ordinance 22-05. Problem solved; county commissioners can now move on to other pressing agenda items. Unfortunately, they may not like what they see in their rearview mirrors. A tsunami maybe headed their way, taking the form of a referendum to once and for all limit the unfettered proliferation of short-term rentals in Clatsop County’s residential neighborhoods.

Angered citizens of Clatsop County who believe their quality of life is being negatively impacted by short-term rental operations, just might follow in the footsteps of their neighbors to the south. The citizens of Lincoln County successfully overruled their board of commissioners, who apparently ignored their concerns that short-term rentals negatively impact the quality-of-life in Lincoln County.

The short-term rental issue will continue to appear and reappear on the board’s agenda for some time to come. They will need to find that balance between one’s property rights and the overall quality of life in residential neighborhoods.

**Jim Aalberg
Warrenton**

Right thing

In response to a city blog post by Police Chief Jeff Bowman, yes, I did speak to the Clatsop County Sheriff about the Facebook rumors floating around alleging the Gearhart City Council and/or city manager received information saying two people would be bringing guns to a City Council meeting.

This rumored threat came just days after the horrific shooting in Uvalde, Texas. I was, understandably concerned for the safety of every single person attending city council meetings. In fact, the rumored threat scared me enough I had decided to attend the July meeting via Zoom rather than in person as had been originally planned.

I, along with others, have been accused of filing a false police report. However, I would direct you to the first paragraph of Mr. Sweet’s email to the mayor and councilors. He clearly states,

“Mayor Smith expressed concern about city hall security regarding people stating that they may be carrying a gun to public meetings.” Similarly, Bowman writes in his blog, “City Hall did just receive an anonymous letter of June 6, 2022.”

So, what did I falsely report? They admit they received a threatening letter that concerned them enough to have a conversation about increasing city hall security.

Furthermore, while Mr. Sweet and Chief Bowman seem to confirm the existence of a threatening letter, they haven’t produced it, not even to the sheriff. Why? Don’t they want the person caught? But, more importantly, why didn’t they report the threat? They, according to their own admission, have had the letter since June 6 and continue to be concerned enough to change the July meeting to virtual only.

I can only speak for myself when I say, I reported because I would never have been able to live with myself if someone had been hurt, or killed, and I had known about that potential from social media rumors beforehand.

In my world, good and honest people do the right thing and that’s more important than worrying about being called names.

See something, hear something, say something.

**Beth Cameron
Gearhart**

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Contact local agencies for latest meeting information and attendance guidelines.

MONDAY, July 11
Seaside City Council, workshop, camping ordinance, 6 p.m., regular meeting, 7 p.m., 989 Broadway.

THURSDAY, July 14
Seaside Convention Center Commission, 5 p.m., 415 First Ave., Seaside.

TUESDAY, July 19
Community Emergency Response Team, 5 p.m., 989 Broadway.

Seaside Planning Commission, work session, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.

WEDNESDAY, July 20
Tourism Advisory Committee, 3 p.m., 989 Broadway.

Seaside Tree Board, 4 p.m., 989 Broadway.

THURSDAY, July 21
Transportation Advisory Commission, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.

MONDAY, July 25
Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., 989 Broadway.

TUESDAY, July 26
Seaside Airport Advisory Committee, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.

TUESDAY, Aug. 2
Seaside Community Center Commission, 10 a.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A.

Seaside Library Board, 4:30 p.m., 1131 Broadway.

Seaside Planning Commission, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.



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