



## GEARHART

# Council seeks gun ban at City Hall

### Officer to be assigned to meetings

By R.J. MARX  
Seaside Signal

The Gearhart City Council moved forward with an ordinance to prohibit weapons at city meetings, but rejected a \$5,000 purchase of a metal detector and handheld wand to screen visitors.

A police officer will be present at city meetings to address potential threats.

Firearms, bows, crossbows, BBs, darts and knives, excluding legal pocket knives under 4 inches, are among weapons included in the ban.

Courthouses and many cities throughout the state require visitors to pass through metal detectors,

Peter Watts, the city attorney, said. "I don't think any of us ever thought that Gearhart would be one of those. But given the increase in shootings nationally, and that information that people believed that other people were bringing weapons to City Council meetings, probably a conversation that that City Council needs to have."

The measure comes after what the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office deemed a false gun threat in June, when conversations from private Facebook groups administered by local residents led to reports of potential gun use at a council meeting.

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# McBride wins role as city's code compliance officer

### Code compliance official role was established in 2020

By R.J. MARX  
Seaside Signal

Anne McBride, the city's emergency preparedness coordinator, will take on an added role as the city's new code compliance official. On July 14 McBride replaced Jeff Flory, who was named planning director after the retirement of Kevin Cupples.

The compliance official, part of the Community Development Department, is tasked with vacation rental ordinance

enforcement, dwelling inspections and dealing with all city issues related to the city's more than 400 vacation rentals.

"This is a new assignment for me and one which I have been involved with in a support role since I started at Community Development almost four years ago," McBride said. "Many of the properties are familiar, and I am well acquainted with the ordinances that govern the short-term rental policies."

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Jim Kuhn, Pam Bierly, Daffne Mejia, Bill Montero, Mary Blake, Dale McDowell, Nancy Holmes and Tom Horning of the Parks Advisory Committee.

R.J. Marx

# Seaside parks committee looks toward the future

### 'It's All Connected' at open house

By R.J. MARX  
Seaside Signal

"It's All Connected" was the message of the Seaside Parks Advisory Committee. The group held an open house Thursday at the Bob Chisholm Community Center, with committee members showcasing city parks in a series of exhibits.

The exhibit includes a new interpretative sign with the message of connectivity and

will be placed on the banks of the Necanicum Creek in Broadway Park this summer, committee chair Nancy Holmes said. New photos and information will be incorporated into the 2017 parks master plan. The sign, 3 feet by 5 feet, was illustrated by science and wildlife artist Nora Sherwood with the assistance of local residents Pam Bierly, Brandy Hussa and

Neal Maine.

The Seltzer Park exhibit comes with photos of Dick and Tom Smothers — known as "The Smothers Brothers" to the Baby Boom generation. They pitched in when the park was built, playing a benefit concert at the convention center with country music legend Willie Nelson in May 1995. Today a bench with their names marks their contributions.

Nearby Sailor's Grave Park, with its monument "Known only to God," is preserved as the final resting place of sailors

New interpretative sign to be placed in Broadway Park.

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**The Pacific Ocean and the Tidal Component of Estuaries**  
There are two high and two low tides per day. High tides push salt water up rivers and streams connected to the ocean creating areas called estuaries. It's not like a switch where it's suddenly high or low tide, the tide is always in the process of flowing in or out. The wildlife and vegetation in estuaries must be adaptable to constant changes in salinity and water depth. This is an incredibly rich area for marine species and estuary water depending on the tides.

**It's All Connected**  
Welcome to the Necanicum Estuary where the fresh water of three rivers and the tides of the Pacific Ocean change the landscape hourly. Twice a day, the ocean tide pushes a dense wedge of salt water up the Necanicum River, and the Necanicum and Nehalem Creeks, creating a unique habitat for wildlife and vegetation. The Necanicum Estuary encompasses all of Seaside and is one of only six conservation estuaries in the state. We hope this sign will serve as an orientation for your exploration of this incredibly rich natural resource.

**The Watershed Funnel**  
As raindrops fall throughout the watershed, the water soaks plants and the excess begins its journey to the ocean. First absorbed into the forest ground, then flowing into small creeks and tributaries, some being absorbed in wetlands, the fresh water flows to the larger river, through the estuary and then out to the sea. Estuaries were the major entry points for fish when crossing the ocean.

**YOU ARE HERE**

**Osprey Nest**  
There is an osprey nest within this park. If you walk between 4th and 9th streets, look at the tall pole among the trees on the left. Lookwest to see a nesting site coming for their young.

**Bury Builders - Shaping the Landscape**  
Beavers live near the estuary and enhance the wetlands which support habitat for many other animals including migrating salmon. Some other animals you might find near the estuary are deer, otters, and muskrats, and many smaller creatures.

**A Salmon Nursery**  
There is a significant difference between fresh and salt water. Most aquatic plants and animals live only one or the other. Only specific plants of the salt marsh can survive the daily shift from fresh to salt water. For these animals the estuary who can only hatch in fresh water and can only spend a short time in salt water, it can be a pretty shocking change. Salmon use estuaries to acclimate on their journey from stream out to the sea, and again as they return upstream to spawn. Healthy salmon populations in the estuary, adapting to the tides, and feeding on marine plankton.

**How High is the Tide Right Now?**  
Check out the tide marker on the post on the dock at Brookway on Queen Park. What is today? Low tide ranges from 0 to 4 feet. High tides are usually somewhere between 4 and 9 feet. Annual high and low tides don't last very long. The tide is more likely in the process of going up or coming down. You can determine if the tide is coming in or going out.

**Salmon Migration**  
Salmon start their lives in freshwater streams, migrate downstream and spend time in estuaries, adapting to salt water, before heading out to spend their entire adult lives in the ocean. At the end of their life cycle, salmon return to their original stream to lay eggs. The estuary serves as a critical gateway and transition point between marine and fresh water.

**The Salt Marsh Buffer Lunch - Tidal Flats**  
Mudflats in the estuary provide a rich food source for countless throughout high and low tide cycles. When the tide is out, migrating birds lounge the mudflats, probing their beaks into the mud, searching for small crustaceans and other invertebrates. When the tide is in, the mudflats are covered in water and fish have an opportunity to eat.

**Salmon Wedge**  
You'd think an estuary would include a perfect blend of salt and fresh water, but the salt and wedge, all water from the Pacific and fresh water from the river don't actually mix. As the tide flows, a layer of dense saltwater pushes upstream in swells, lifting the fresh water up on top.

**Ever Changing Currents**  
When you think of high and low tides, it's easy to just imagine the same water coming in and going out each time. This is actually not true! Ocean currents push water away along a separating wall. By the time the tide has gone out and starts coming back in, it's more water entering the estuary. The more dense currents change by season, moving from the north to the south in the summer and from south to north in the winter. If you've ever had a tennis ball in the sand, you will see that the tennis ball will wash closer to a very different place up or down the beach.

**Wandering Detritus Feeders**  
Many crab-like invertebrates, called detritus feeders, follow the tide and come further up river in the salt water wedge. These creatures eat on the high tide opportunity to feed in the rich estuarine environment.

**Flyers and Divers - Birds of All Kinds**  
Some of the birds you see near the estuary are seasonal residents. Others spend part of the year here, either setting up seasonal homes or just passing through on their way elsewhere. Birds bring new the estuary have all kinds of reasons to find their way to us. Some are divers, some are shore birds, some are water birds. There are about 200 species of birds that live in the Seaside area. You can see Great Blue Herons, Bald Eagles, Green Herons, Bald Eagles, Kinglets, and many different varieties of gulls and diving ducks.

# Montero, McVey to run for City Council

### Phillips will not pursue a fourth term

By R.J. MARX  
Seaside Signal

Dana Phillips, who serves as the at-large councilor for Ward 3 and Ward 4, will not run for another term on the City Council.

"I truly love this community and feel good about all that we as a council have brought to fruition during my time on the council, but it is time for me to step aside," she said.

Phillips is a former president of the Seaside Chamber of Commerce,

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## SEASIDE'S VOTING WARDS

Councilor Steve Wright serves Ward 1, or Seaside south. Tita Montero is Ward 2 councilor, and Tom Horning represents Ward 3. Ward 4 is represented by councilor David Posalski. The city has two at large positions, Randy Frank in wards 1 and 2, and Dana Phillips, in wards 3 and 4.

Ward 1, with 1,783 residents, begins at the city's south end and covers much of the western part of the city south of Avenue F.

Ward 2, with 1,786 people, covers from Avenue G and north.

Ward 3, with a population of 1,796, covers the area west of Highway 101 and area east of U.S. Highway 101.

Ward 4, with 1,789 residents, is mostly east of Wahanna Road.

# Volleyball returns for 40th year in Seaside

### Between 1,400 to 1,500 teams to compete in event

By R.J. MARX  
Seaside Signal

Seaside Beach Volleyball returns for its 40th year this week, with between 1,400 and 1,500 teams competing this year, the chamber's acting CEO, Katie McCloud said.

The tournament is the Seaside Chamber of Commerce's largest program.

"Last year after a year off from the pandemic we had 1,200," McCloud said. "We don't expect to grow anymore than where we are because we don't want to diminish the experience for our players."

The tournament launched on Sept. 4, 1982, with 57 teams and 215 competitors from Oregon, Washington state and California. By 2012, the event drew

between 8,000 and 10,000 participants during the tournament, a number that has grown since.

In 2016, Bad Boys Open Volleyball partnered with the chamber to oversee organization and management of the tournament. Organizers Deng Thepharat, Mike Griffin and P.T. Thilavanh brought more teams, age groups, national sponsors and streamlined play. Griffin and Thilavanh continue to participate through Bad Boys and Northwest Asian Sports.

In 2019, the tournament featured about 1,600 teams playing among three divisions, including doubles, quads and sixes. Organizers put up 184 volleyball courts on the beach, about 20 more than in 2018.

The tournament returned in 2021 after a year's hiatus as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

The first day begins with youth players doubles pool play, and will

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Jeff TerHar/The Astorian

Logan Webber goes high for a kill attempt in the 2021 men's open championship.

