

D.M. building heights discussed

By Keith Daigle

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES/NEWS

Des Moines has been working hard to renovate its marina and prepare the downtown for new development. The City Council is now in the early stages of discussing new design guidelines and policy for the marina district.

Later in the year the city will vote on an ordinance that will completely change the development guidelines in downtown as part of many projects the city hopes will revitalize the marina district.

Among the possible changes being discussed is raising the building height along the west side of Marine View Dr. and 7th Ave. S.

Council members are discussing raising the building height from 35 feet to 45 feet, with the possibility of a height bonus allowing buildings to go to 65 feet. Some buildings along Marine View Dr. could go to 45 feet with height bonuses.

Many council members spoke

out against the proposal.

"It is a question of whether we are continuing the character of the town," Councilwoman Carmen Scott said. "I don't feel comfortable with what is being proposed."

Staff said because of the grade change, buildings along the avenue are on average 20 feet lower than the buildings on the drive.

Also being discussed is the possibility of turning 7th Avenue into the main street of Des Moines. To encourage this, the city is discussing not regulating where the buildings have to sit on the lot, allowing for outdoor seating and other measures. The city is also looking at going away from their prescriptive design guidelines and using a more flexible method. Councilman Matt Pina compared some of the buildings downtown, which followed the city's prescriptive design guidelines, to wedding cakes.

In that vein, being looked at is the possibility of using floor area ratios to regulate building height and how much of the lot the build-

ing covers.

For example, a building covering the entire lot could only be one story. However, if it only covered half the lot it could go up another story.

A public hearing on the new policies will likely be held on May 12, at 7:30 p.m. The council will approve the public hearing on the consent agenda of the April 14 council meeting.

Mayor Bob Sheckler said because a public hearing notice will be sent to everyone in the city.

There will also be two open houses held at the Des Moines Activity Center before the public hearing.

Fundraiser: Preschool uses Des Moines Unitarian church

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celebrate important Japanese holidays such as Cherry Blossom Day in April.

Most students have at least one parent who immigrated from Japan and are native Japanese speakers. Hall herself grew up in Japan before meeting her husband who was raised in Burien and graduated from Highline High School.

"I really believe in community building," says Hall. With increased interest from the public, there is a possibility of eventually expanding the program to include non-Japanese speaking students. "I receive a lot of inquiries because many parents want their children to learn about the Japanese heritage and be exposed to the culture," says Hall. She considers the April 16 fundraiser an opportunity

LETTERS

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Speaker of the House John Boehner should have a sore foot because of his fiddling while Rome is burning while negotiating with a body so devious as the Democrats. He has a bully pulpit but apparently lacks the leadership and communication skills to describe this national critical financial situation to the voting public.

You have the public's attention and if you were to do an informal "man on the street" interview asking the question how much would we reduce the size of government in terms of regulations and spending; 30 percent, 40 percent 50 percent ... and my bet is that the replies would be in the higher values! And, yet Boehner appar-

ently is stumped for a reply to the Democrats who indicate that a cut of less than 5 percent from a \$1.3 TRILLION DOLLAR BUDGET in discretionary spending would somehow be devastating.

Whereas we, the producers, here in the "real world" have already dealt with reducing our discretionary spending that was 5 percent of our income as opposed to the government who continues to spend our taxes at a rate of almost 50 percent in discretionary spending.

Gary Kennedy
Des Moines

Port presents remedies for Sea-Tac Airport noise

By Ty Swenson

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES/NEWS

Around 800 aircraft take off and land at Sea-Tac International Airport everyday and with that traffic comes a lot of noise.

The Port of Seattle held an open house for the public at Sea-Tac on April 9 to display the latest possible remedies to reduce noise emanating from the airport that negatively affects surrounding communities.

The Port uses a metric called DNL (a day-night average of noise over a year-long period) to determine a boundary around the airport where anyone living within the boundary can be negatively affected by airport noise. Port noise study manager Stan Shepherd said they look primarily at sleep loss and trouble speaking with others over the noise.

The sound mitigation proposals on display at the open house were brought up by the communities surrounding the airport, Shepherd said, and they are all in the feasibility study phase at this time. He said the Port will decide on the best solutions and present them to the FAA at the end of 2011. The FAA will then do a 180 day review and decide which measures they will help fund.

Shepherd said a few factors have actually shrunk the 65 DNL sound contour since they last measured it in 1985 including quieter aircrafts and a dampened economy that has resulted in fewer flights coming into the airport.

Among the mitigation proposals are building a hush house, which reduces noise from checking airplane engines and engine run-ups, install air conditioning for single-family homes within the updated noise remedy boundary that have not already been insulated, assist local jurisdictions with long-term land use planning, provide multi-family owner-occupied/tenant occupied sound insulation and purchase avigation easements for mobile/manufactured homes on private land withing the updates noise remedy.

For more information on these proposals, visit www.airportsites.net/SEA-Part150/ or www.portseattle.org/community/environment/noise.shtml.

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Arlene Brown lives in Normandy Park and said she generally wakes up at least twice a night from loud planes landing.

"The noise boundaries and the DNL approach doesn't reflect reality," she said, "and noise can wake people up multiple times every night and studies show very clearly it increases cardiovascular illness and blood pressure in particular and that it doesn't take much airport noise to make those increases and that's completely ignored in this process.

Shepherd said, "This is the best cumulative noise metric that can show the impact to a community over the given portion of a year so the FAA has ... evaluated that metric many times and still haven't come up with anything better to show what an impact would be to a community."

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE LIFE'S Pleasures

APRIL EVENTS

Double Dip Ice Cream Social!
Friday, April 8th, 2:00 p.m.
Enjoy TWO afternoon treats in one!
Along with a scoop of delicious ice cream, you can dance to the swing styling of the Hanky Panky Band.

Annual Spring Tea
Thursday, April 14th

Two sittings: 1:00 & 3:00 p.m.
Life's pleasures are celebrated every day at Daystar. Join us for this traditional English Tea and listen to the music of Greenwood Strings.

Lunch & Learn

Thursday, April 21st, 11:30 a.m.
Bring a friend or family member and join us for a light lunch to learn about senior living options available at Daystar.



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to strengthen the Himawari community and provide outreach to the greater public.

"When we learned about what happened (to Inaba's family), our first concern was for her. We wanted to support her emotionally and do whatever we could to help," says Hall. "I think a bonus is that it's definitely a good thing for the local area to know that we're here and that there is a Japanese community."

For Inaba and her family, being embraced by support from around the world offers invaluable hope. "To someone living here, it may seem like just a little bit (of help), but it is a huge amount of encouragement to the people in Japan," says Inaba. "I'm excited for my Japanese and American friends to share this event and hope it will be a big success."

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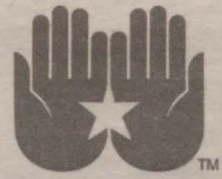
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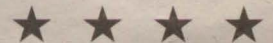
We invite you to come to one of our events in April for a little fun and an opportunity to explore the lifestyle options available at Daystar Retirement Village.

Choose from a variety of apartment homes in our independent or assisted living residences in our rent-only community. No matter which residence you choose, you will find comfort, privacy and independence in a warm family setting you'll be happy to call home.



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Congratulations to the 2011 Gold Star Awards Nominees!



Outstanding Teacher Award Nominees:

- Mary Drew, Cedarhurst Elementary School
- Dan Dundon, Big Picture High School
- Dan Fosberg, Mount Rainier High School
- Beverly Mowrer, New Start High School
- Carrie Robeson, Gregory Heights Elementary School
- Evin Shinn, Chinook Middle School
- Victoria Terry, Chinook Middle School
- Jill Weseman, Global Connections High School

Outstanding Classified or Professional Support Staff Award Nominees:

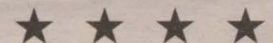
- Toni Barth, Beverly Park Elementary School
- Veronique Chevallier-Gruschow, Highline High School
- Laura Elliott, Mount Rainier High School
- Carey Gannaw, TEC High School
- Cynthia Gilbert, Health Sciences and Human Services High School
- Elaine Irons-Hunt, Sylvester Middle School
- Jack Kearns, Facilities
- Dolly Knuth, Choice Academy
- Tom Manola, PSSC

- Brenda Rauschenberg, Beverly Park Elementary School
- Jeanne Stratton, Bow Lake Elementary School
- Dawna Turk, McMicken Heights Elementary School

Outstanding Volunteer Award Nominees:

- Mike Borfritz, Aviation High School
- Ashley Fosberg, Marvista Elementary School
- Janette Swecker, North Hill Elementary School

Outstanding Administrator Award Nominees:
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Winners will be honored at the Gold Star Awards Benefit May 13, 2011

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