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Gateway into Silverton gets shot of life

Bill Poehler Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

SILVERTON – The drive into town is not picturesque. As visitors arrive through the northern gateway to Silverton along Highway 214 as it transitions into North 1st Street, visitors are greeted by an industrial area — metal buildings about 40 years old and no sidewalks. It lacks the style much of the city possesses. The area is considered blighted. The Silverton City Council recently expanded its urban renewal district by 20 acres in the north end of the city to give it more options for revitalizing the area. “In this case, the 1st Street expansion, I really see that as a general good because that is an area of blight,” councilor

Laurie Carter said. “As you come into town, it looks really trashy. And it’s not to the benefit to the whole community to have those trashy entrances.”

But not everybody is happy about it. City councilor Jim Sears fought against adding the area into the urban renewal district and instead wants a residential area included.

Silverton’s urban renewal district was created in 2004, and the businesses within that district have been paying into the district since then.

The handful of businesses added in the expansion of the urban renewal district will pay approximately \$46,000 into the fund during the current plan, which likely will go

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The entry into Silverton from the north has been added into the city’s urban renewal district allowing the business owners to apply for grants or loans and the city to use funds to improve the street, including building sidewalks. BILL POEHLER | STATESMAN JOURNAL



The Summer Food Service Program provides free meals to children ages 1-18, regardless of family income. STATESMAN JOURNAL FILE

Summer meal program to expand

Education department short on schools, sites

Natalie Pate Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Oregon Department of Education is seeking more schools, community organizations and Native American tribes to participate in its Summer Food Service Program this year, with applications due in April. The program — which provides free meals to all children ages 1-18, regardless of family income — helps

ensure children and teens receive nutritious meals during summer months.

The state is trying to expand the program for 2019, especially in 15 targeted counties, including Marion and Yamhill counties in the Mid-Willamette Valley.

Agency officials say only about 12 percent of the 307,182 children eligible for free or reduced-priced

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Silverton to expand drinking water capacity

Christena Brooks Special to Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

The City of Silverton will expand its drinking water capacity over the next two years, with the federal government paying half the project’s \$2.3 million bill.

Replacing a half-mile of pipe that carries fresh water from Silver Creek up to Silverton’s two water treatment plants on Ames Street is a step toward enlarging the city’s whole water system.

“It’s a huge step forward,” said Silverton Public Works Director Petra Schuetz. “It’s a pretty straightforward project that’s extremely important. It has to happen before we can build more capacity at the water treatment plant.”

Silver Creek is Silverton’s secondary water source; its primary is Abiqua Creek, while Silverton Reservoir is a third resource. Taken together, the three locations have

enough supply to meet Silverton’s water needs year round.

“We have plenty of capacity and ample water rights,” Schuetz said. “What we’re trying to build is physical infrastructure.”

Silverton’s former Public Works director, Christian Saxe, applied for a grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration, which awarded \$1.15 million last fall to “provide the necessary potable water for the continued growth of the city’s commercial/industrial park,” according to city council documents.

Silverton’s half of the bill will be paid via System Development Charges, or SDC’s, the fees collected by the city from builders for infrastructure expansion associated with growth.

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Ratchet Brewery expands, open second location

Emily Teel Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

In December 2018 Salem’s Ratchet Brewery celebrated a year in business. By the time they reach their second anniversary they’ll have an additional and much larger brewery up and running.

Co-owners Dan Miletta and William Mary announced this week that they will be opening a second location, complete with a brewpub. The new venture will be located at 990 North First Street, Silverton in the space that, for eight years, was home to Seven Brides Brewing.

Miletta and Mary estimate that they brewed more than 50 different beers within their first year in business. They were considering expanding in Oct. 2018 when Seven Brides announced their plans to close.

At the time, Seven Brides said they would continue brewing and selling beer to wholesale clients, closing only the taproom and retail store. Now, it appears they ceased operations entirely.

The owners of Seven Brides did not respond to requests for comment.

For Miletta and Mary, the chance to lease a turn-key brewery space is an exciting and rare opportunity. They plan to paint and redecorate the taproom to give it the garage vibe consistent with the brewery’s name.

Pending permit approvals, they hope to complete renovations and begin operations within three months.

When they open the new space it will be in a tiered fashion. First, they will open the taproom, essentially mirroring operations of their existing brewery at 2701 22nd Street SE in Salem. They plan to pour the same selection of beers and will likely host food trucks. Once established, they will begin brewing at the new space. Finally, they plan to hire a chef and establish a menu for the brewpub.

Despite this planned growth, the existing Ratchet Brewery location will remain open. Even when they move bulk brewing to Silverton they will continue to use their current half-barrel brewing system to make test batches and limited edition brews.

Emily Teel is the Food & Drink Editor at the Statesman Journal. Contact her at eteel@statesmanjournal.com, or via Facebook or Twitter. See what she’s cooking and where she’s eating this week on Instagram: [@emily_teel](https://www.instagram.com/emily_teel)



Dan Miletta and William Mary stand outside their new brewery space on 22nd Street. BROOKE JACKSON-GLIDDEN / STATESMAN JOURNAL

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