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Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

The planned Astoria Co-op Grocery expansion in the Mill Pond neighborhood will need a conditional use permit, zone adjustment and approval by the Mill Pond Village Owners Association. The co-op hopes to raise more than \$1 million for the store.

## Astoria Library to get a makeover

Project could wrap in 2020; cost \$5 million

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
The Daily Astorian

The City Council gave unanimous support Tuesday night to a plan to renovate the Astoria Library, essentially going back to a feasibility study that explored the same idea in 2013.

Renovation work on the \$5 million project would begin in 2019 and wrap in 2020.

The council's vote marks a turning point in discussions about the library's future.

For years city councilors, library board members and others have proposed and debated a variety of alternatives — everything from building an entirely new library to knocking down the neighboring former Waldorf Hotel to make room for an expansion. None of the ideas drew unanimous support and fundraising efforts stalled.

See LIBRARY, Page 5A

## GROCERY ON THE GO

### Astoria Co-op signs lease at Mill Pond

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

The Astoria Co-Op Grocery has signed a lease to build a new store on the site of the former Astoria Plywood Cooperative at the corner of 23rd Street and Marine Drive.

The new location in Mill Pond, at more than 11,000 square feet, will increase the co-op's retail footprint from 2,100 to 7,500 square feet and is expected to nearly triple the current staff of 25. The expansion will add more fresh produce, meat, cheese, deli and a dining area.

The co-op has a 20-year lease on the site with landowner Astor Venture LLC and will start a capital campaign in the fall to raise substantially more than \$1 million for the construction of the store. Co-op General Manager Matt Stanley said the co-op's total project cost will be about \$3.8 million, with a similar amount coming from Astor Venture.

#### Growing

"Most shoppers feel the co-op has outgrown its current space at 14th and Exchange (streets) in Astoria," a release from the co-op said. "Crowded aisles and lack of a designated receiving area for deliveries are a few of the telltale signs. A shopper survey revealed that the vast majority support expansion, so the board of directors made that a goal in the co-op's strategic plan."

Stanley joined the co-op in 2008, shortly before the store moved from the Norblad Building on 14th between Exchange and Duane streets to the Shark Rock Building, one block south. Since then, he said, the store has grown from between 500 and 600 members to nearly 4,000, with annual sales climbing from \$800,000 to \$3.8 million.

"This current location has allowed us to be really successful," he said, but the Shark Rock Building was meant to be office spaces, while the vacant land provides the co-op a chance to build a dedicated grocery store.

See CO-OP, Page 7A



Astoria Co-op Grocery/Submitted Photo

The Astoria Co-op Grocery hopes to raise more than \$1 million from members and open a new store at the corner of 23rd Street and Marine Drive in the Mill Pond neighborhood by the end of 2018.



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

The sun sets over the Mill Pond neighborhood, which could see an expansion of the Astoria Co-op Grocery in the future if it passes zoning hurdles and is approved by the homeowners association. The new location offers more square footage.



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Life Flight Pilot Dan Leary performs a preflight inspection of a helicopter at the Astoria Regional Airport.

## Life Flight funds not in Port budget

\$1.96 million bond rejected by voters

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

After the failure of a \$1.96 million bond for infrastructure development at the Astoria Regional Airport failed this month, the Port of Astoria has no money in its budget next fiscal year to help develop Life Flight Network's new base.

During a budget committee meeting Tuesday, committee member Cindy Daly asked what the plan was to help accommodate the medevac service, which last year received a \$665,000 ConnectOregon infrastructure grant to pair with its \$285,000 match and build a hangar and crew quarters.

See PORT, Page 7A

## From the love of libraries to leadership

### Seaside leader elected to state library post

By BRENNNA VISSER  
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — When Esther Moberg was 17 years old working as a page in the Astoria Library, the thought of becoming one of the most influential librarians in Oregon was not on her mind.

Starting in September, Moberg will take over as the president of the Oregon Library Association. She is the director

of Seaside Public Library, and has been working in the library world for more than 14 years. The library association elected her at the end of May for a year-long term.

As president, it will be Moberg's job to advocate for the health and well-being of all academic, public, school and special libraries throughout Oregon, she said. She will often be at the same table as government officials and publishers and will organize conferences to help give Oregon's libraries a unified voice.

"It's such an honor. It says your peers respect you enough to give you this kind of respon-

sibility," Moberg said. "It's all about giving back."

She said she decided to run after the nominating committee reached out to her, recommending her as a viable candidate. Before this, she had been involved with the library association for about five years, serving on a variety of conference and award committees.

#### Love at young age

Her love for libraries started at a young age, she said. She was home-schooled, which meant going on multiple trips to the library for learning materials.

See MOBERG, Page 7A



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Library Director Esther Moberg, left, helps a colleague at the Seaside Library where she has worked for years. Moberg was recently elected president of the Oregon Library Association.

