

# Hole: Volunteers wrapped fence with banners, hiding it all from view

Continued from Page 1A

The Garden of Surging Waves went up to the west of the hole four years ago, on the corner of Duane and 11th. The tall, blue American Legion building stands to the south. The Astoria Sunday Market erects booths in the parking lot to the east from May to October.

In July 2015, city leaders and staff were optimistic that the hole would be dealt with soon. But plans to build a new library with housing at Heritage Square went nowhere. Major cleanup work to deal with contaminated soil in and around the hole is more or less complete. But — with an understaffed community development department, other big city projects on the horizon and no immediate plans for what exactly could be developed around the site — the hole remains.

In early June, the City Council asked staff to push forward on finishing the Riverfront Vision Plan, which guides development along the Columbia River, specifi-



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Tunnels under the streets of Astoria are adjacent to the open pit which collapsed in December 2010.

cally the Urban Core section between Second Street and 16th Street.

City Councilor Tom Brownson asked how focusing on this project would take away from other goals. "Let's say, Heritage Square," he said.

Estes said staff will still be engaged with Heritage Square. But, without a fully staffed community development department, he added, there is "not a whole lot more bandwidth to add other projects."

At the end of June, as they have done in summers past, volunteers wrapped the chain-link fence that surrounds the hole with banners, hiding it all from view during the busiest tourist season.

### Problem isn't unique

The hole is and is not unique.

Rosemary Johnson, a former city planner, can point to several other troubled areas or buildings around Astoria that sat for years. Mill Pond, for example: A once-polluted site on the east end of the city that is now an upscale housing development. It took the city 10 years to get from the decision to clean it up and begin preparing for development to the point where it was ready for development, Johnson said.

But with the hole, there are

some differences.

"Any time you have contamination or you have a large site that the public is aware of then there's issues with it," Johnson said. "It's more difficult because it's in your eye every day."

But, she added, "The problems aren't unique. The problems are the same: Cleanup money, finding the right development for the site."

Johnson was involved with the hole's neighbor, the Garden of Surging Waves. She credits massive efforts from the Chinese community and people in Portland and Salem who contributed large amounts of money with bringing the cultural project to fruition.

The Garden of Surging Waves was a huge accomplishment, Johnson said. When city staffing, plans and money are in place, she believes the rest of Heritage Square will follow suit.

"When you have a full staff, everybody's up to speed," Johnson said. "Then you can take on bigger projects and you can move faster."

## Historic Downtown Astoria

# SIDEWALK SALE

July

5, 6, 7 & 8

COMMERCIAL STREET  
**ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES**

**Huge Sidewalk Sale**  
50%-75% Off! • Open at 10am

959 Commercial St, Astoria, OR • 503-325-4388

**Jonathon's, LTD.**

Estate Jewelry, Diamonds, Art & Antiques  
**A Value Seeker's Paradise**

**Top Prices for Gold & Silver**

Downtown Astoria on 12th St.  
503-325-7600 • Wed-Sun

**Store Closing SALE!**  
INTERIOR  
*Style*

**SUPER SAVINGS**  
Everything must go!

503.325.4766 • 9th & Astor • Astoria  
11-5 • 12-4 Sundays • Closed Tues & Weds

**Deals Only**

Select items in store  
**50% off**

Everything that's non-food or drink  
**25% off!**

Visit us for more Great Deals!

1173 Commercial St • Astoria, OR 97103  
503-338-4800

**VIDEO HORIZONS**  
"Old School Videos" alive and well in Astoria

**BARGAIN TABLE**  
\$3 DVD'S/VIDEO GAMES

Locally owned and operated for over 30 years!  
750 Astor St. • Astoria • 503-325-7310  
Like us on Facebook for new release updates and daily specials!

**4 SEASONS CLOTHING**  
1405 COMMERCIAL DOWNTOWN ASTORIA

**SALE**

**IVKO** WOMAN  
*Brighton.*  
SWEATERS, DRESSES, TEES, SKIRTS & MORE

**Homespun Quilts & Yarn**

**60% off**

Selected fabric, yarn, books, patterns and notions

**BERNINA**  
Nothing Sews Like A Bernina. Nothing.

108 10th ST. - Astoria, OR (503) 325-3300  
Open July 6-7 10am-5pm  
www.homespunquilts.com

**PURPLE COW TOYS**  
GAMES TOYS PUZZLES YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD FOR TOYS!

Thursday THRU Sunday • July 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>

**Sidewalk SALE**

f 503-325-2996 1380 Commercial Street, Astoria

"Bring Nature Home"

**ERICKSON FLORAL CO.**

**SUMMER CLEARANCE SALE**

Downtown Astoria - Since 1889

**SIDEWALK Sale**

**25 to 50% off**

All Sidewalk Merchandise  
JULY 5<sup>th</sup> THRU 8<sup>th</sup>

**Gimre's Shoes**  
ASTORIA

Trust your feet to Gimre's Shoes.™

239 14th St. • Astoria • 503-325-3972 f

**rusty dahlia**  
gifts & home decor

f 503.741.3434  
www.rustydahlia.com  
mary@rustydahlia.com

1062 Marine Drive, Astoria, OR 97103

**EVERY BIKE ON SALE!**

**Bikes & Beyond**  
SERVICE • SALES • RENTALS

Since 1988, the leader in bicycle sales, service & rentals on the North Coast.

503.325.2961  
1089 MARINE DRIVE ASTORIA, OREGON

TREK DETROIT BIKES  
FELT

HOURS: MON-SAT 10-6 SUNDAY 12-5

WWW.BIKESANDBEYOND.COM

**Home Furnishings**  
1033 COMMERCIAL ST. • 503-325-5620

Get in on our Summer Raffle

Bring in an UGLY TIE for a chance to win a BBQ package

We also have several ways to enter our Patio Heater raffle!

OPEN 7 days a week

f Like us on Facebook tchomefurnishing.com