

# the Astorian

147TH YEAR, NO. 42

WEEKEND EDITION // SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2019

\$1.50

## Astoria rejects Grocery Outlet design

Tells developer no Marine Drive access

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Astorian

The Astoria Design Review Commission voted unanimously Thursday night against a new Grocery Outlet near the Mill Pond neighborhood.

Commissioners cited access off Marine Drive and the challenges it could pose to pedestrians as central issues in their denial.

The Texas-based developer, Main & Main Capital Group, can come back with a revised design for the discount grocery project or appeal the commission's decision to the City Council.

"To me, this isn't about telling

*'TO ME, THIS ISN'T ABOUT TELLING GROCERY OUTLET TO GO AWAY. IT'S ABOUT GETTING A GOOD DESIGN FOR THE SITE.'*

Ian Sisson | commissioner

Grocery Outlet to go away," Commissioner Ian Sisson said. "It's about getting a good design for the site."

The developer wants to build a 16,000-square-foot building on a constricted, triangle-shaped lot where Commercial Street runs into

Marine Drive. The back of the store would face 23rd Street, across from the new Astoria Co-op slated to open in December.

The developer proposed access to the store directly off Marine Drive, with pedestrians on Marine Drive and in the store's parking lot having to cross a driveway on striped paths to reach the entrance.

Neighbors and supporters of the co-op argued that the access on Marine Drive would pose a danger to pedestrians and complicate traffic.

Rosemary Johnson, a city planning consultant, said the pedestrian-oriented focus of the Gateway Overlay zone discourages buildings with drive-up facilities and massive parking lots people have to



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

A developer wants to build a Grocery Outlet on a triangular-shaped lot.

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## FALL HARVEST

Thousands of cranberries fall into the truck bins.  
Hailey Hoffman  
The Astorian

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Edward Stratton/The Astorian

Bill Blackler, co-owner of Nisa's Thai Kitchen in Warrenton, hopes to build out an ethnic food hub in the former Port of Call Bistro and Bar in Astoria.

## Ethnic food hub planned downtown

Remaking the Port of Call

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Astorian

Bill Blackler, the co-owner of Nisa's Thai Kitchen in Warrenton, is planning an ethnic food hub in the former Port of Call Bistro

and Bar at Ninth and Commercial streets.

Blackler and a group of investors recent bought the building housing Port of Call and the Astoria Event Center from Rose Marie Paavola's company, Luotamus Partners. He hopes within six months to have the former Port of Call space divided into smaller storefronts with several ethnic restaurants, including a Mexican bakery, Lebanese restaurant and others.

He and his wife, Nisa, opened Nisa's Thai Kitchen in the former

Kim's Kitchen Korean restaurant on Harbor Drive in Warrenton in 2014.

"I'd like to stay (with) ethnic food, because I've seen such success out at Nisa's," he said.

There are plenty of places with burgers and fish and chips, while ethnic food shows strong growth nationally, he said. A previous analysis by the Astoria Downtown Historic District Association found a lack of ethnic food options.

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## Tobacco flavor ban goes back before cities

Talks to clarify issue

By NICOLE BALES  
The Astorian

Clatsop County is taking a tobacco retail license ordinance back to the cities, this time giving more attention to a ban on flavored tobacco.

Last month, county commissioners delayed action until January after hearing from local tobacco retailers and the electronic cigarette company, Juul, that the process was not transparent. The ordinance would give the county the authority to license and inspect tobacco retailers, as well as ban flavored tobacco. The county would be the first in the state to ban flavored tobacco products.

The discussion with cities, which had initially supported the ordinance, comes in the midst of a national focus on vaping-related illnesses and deaths.

Gov. Kate Brown on Friday announced a six-month ban on

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Gov. Brown issues ban on flavored vaping products  
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flavored vaping products after two deaths and several illnesses reported in Oregon. Washington State Gov. Jay Inslee has also called for an emergency ban.

John Harper, a regional cigarette and marijuana store financier, asked county commissioners to convene tobacco retailers and cities to discuss the flavor ban, saying he believes cities were not fully aware it is a component of the ordinance.

The Clatsop County Public Health Department took the ordinance before Astoria, Warrenton, Seaside, Gearhart and Cannon Beach, but some city leaders don't recall mention of the ban.

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