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CORONAVIRUS

Warrenton considers smoking ban in parks

Neighbors concerned about new park

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

WARRENTON — The City Commission is considering a ban on smoking in public parks.

Commissioners took up the issue recently after a unanimous recommendation from the Parks Advisory Board. Sara Long, the chairwoman of the advisory board, who grew up in Astoria, left the area and returned to Warrenton four years ago, as said she assumed smoking was already banned in parks.

“Parks are intended to be a family area, and we can’t see any reason why not to ban that,” she said. “We want the parks to be safe for everybody.”

Astoria banned smoking and tobacco use in parks five years ago, as did Clatsop County in county parks. County health staff have pushed the smoke-free areas as a way to reduce exposure to harmful secondhand smoke and discourage children from starting to use tobacco products.

See Smoking ban, Page A6

Astoria streamlines fitness and child care

City also revises scholarships

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

The Astoria Aquatic Center will hold all the city’s fitness classes once it reopens, while the city is moving scholarships for lower-income patrons toward a daily drop-in pass distributed through community service organizations.

A 2016 master plan for the Astoria Parks and Recreation Department recommended consolidating services as the city tries to attract more users and increase revenue, City Manager Brett Estes told the City Council last week. The Astoria Recreation Center will transition to hosting child care services as the city’s budget allows, he said.

Jonah Dart-McLean, the city’s parks director, said the city doesn’t have a timeline for reopening either facility. The reopening of the aquatic center will depend on how much revenue the city collects from lodging taxes that help subsidize the operation.

See Astoria, Page A6



Optog

LEFT: Kaisa Liljenwall, Miss Sweden, waved to passing cars at the stationary Optog parade. **BELOW:** Nettie Blair was named grand marshal of the stationary Optog parade on Saturday afternoon. The event was modified after the cancellation of the Astoria Scandinavian Midsummer Festival because of the coronavirus. **BOTTOM:** With large umbrellas to stay dry, people from the local Scandinavian community lined Marine Drive for a stationary Optog parade.

Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian



Police officer rescues baby from fire

Witness describes ‘selfless act of bravery’

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

An Astoria police officer rescued a baby from a burning home on Friday in what a witness described as a “selfless act of bravery.”

Christine Lawler said she was driving on W. Marine Drive when she noticed a home was on fire and pulled over to see how she could help. A bicy-

clist also stopped and pounded on the door to alert the family before trying to put the fire out with a garden hose.

Astoria police officer Jason Robinson went to the front door and helped a man get out of the house. Lawler said a woman and her children already got out safely, but she said the woman yelled when she realized her baby was still in the house sleeping.

Lawler said she rushed toward the home to search for the baby. But Robinson had already gone back in and, when

Lawler opened the door, she said, black smoke poured out of the house and Robinson was coming out with the baby in his arms.

Lawler said in an email that “it was nothing short of a miracle.”

“With so much outrage about police officers who engage in unscrupulous behavior, this selfless act of bravery should not go unrecognized.”

Astoria Fire Chief Dan Crutchfield said firefighters were prepared to make a rescue, but learned that everyone

had been brought out of the house once they arrived.

Firefighters brought the fire under control within 10 minutes. The home had minor smoke and heat damage on the inside and extensive damage to the exterior.

After an initial investigation, officials discovered that

See Rescue, Page A6



Astoria Fire Department

A fire damaged a home on W. Marine Drive in Astoria on Friday.



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