

Tax: Remaining money would likely be used to complete Uniontown Reborn master plan

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Having a position in the Astoria Fire Department to focus on emergency preparedness would benefit the entire community and take resiliency beyond just planning, the mayor said.

City Councilor Joan Herman, Councilor Tom Brownson and Councilor Roger Rocka had been supportive of increasing the urban renewal funding. Herman said she was convinced by city staff's arguments for the new positions.

The remaining \$5.3 million in the urban renewal fund will likely be used in partnership with the state to complete the Uniontown Reborn master plan, including a lane reconfiguration along Marine Drive and other streetscape improvements, along with funding for facade improvement grants.

The most likely need for more money in the urban renewal district was the revitalization of the Port of Astoria's West Mooring Basin, identified as a prime location for a redeveloped commercial district. Urban renewal funds helped pay for a master plan of the area due in the fall.

The city and other taxing districts will also receive a pot of money from amounts collected over the maximum indebtedness this year. The amount and timing are unclear. Estes recommended putting the city's share into a fund for work within a certain area or on a certain project identified by the



The Astorian
Astoria plans to hire another city planner. Former City Planner Rosemary Johnson has filled in, with the department short-staffed and deluged with development activity and code amendments.

City Council.

"If these were city of Astoria funds, they could potentially have more flexibility on what they could be used for," he said.

Rocka, who represents part of the west side, said he supports putting the city's share into a fund ready to throw at a project the city

identifies in the future.

"What I have in mind as much as the last time is the Port," he said. "I think the Port is at a point of flux. They have a chance to be greatly successful, which would benefit all of us. And it would be nice if the city was in a position to jump in and help."

Miss Oregon: Parade through Seaside set

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This year's program will include the Miss Oregon parade through downtown, an annual event interrupted last year. "This year's theme will be 'mask parade' and all of our candidates will be wearing masquerade masks, in order to find a fun way to celebrate COVID in style, and hopefully send this pandemic on its merry way," McShane said.

"The Rose City Corvette Club

has already stated that they can't wait to mask up and drive our candidates in a tradition that is decades old."

The number of tickets available will be based on Clatsop County's virus risk level in June.

"We have a COVID-19 task force that is currently meeting to discuss the safest protocols to keep our candidates and volunteers safe and healthy," McShane said. "We are requesting that each candidate self-quarantine before arriving in

Seaside."

Temperatures will be checked for people who enter the convention center.

COVID-19 protocols will be posted on the scholarship program's website.

"Of course, we'd love nothing more than for all COVID-19 restrictions to be at the lowest risk assessment during pageant week," McShane said. "But we are prepared to have an enjoyable event no matter what."

County reports seven virus cases

The Astorian

Clatsop County has reported seven new coronavirus cases over the past few days.

On Friday, the county reported six cases.

The cases include a woman in her 20s and a woman in her 60s living in the northern part of the county. The others live in the southern part of the county and involve a female between 10 and 19, two men in

their 40s and a man in his 50s.

All six were recovering at home.

On Thursday, the county reported one case.

The case involves a woman in her 30s living in the northern part of the county. The woman was recovering at home.

The county has recorded 881 cases since the start of the pandemic. According to the county, 21 were hospitalized and eight have died.

Vaccine: County has vaccinated 8,420

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"But the good news is that we all have the tools to protect ourselves and our loved ones by wearing masks, keeping our distance and limiting private indoor gatherings," Sidelinger said during a press conference. "And starting Monday, many more of us will have another tool — access to a vaccine."

The federal Food and Drug Administration's decision to pause the use of the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine has disrupted vaccination schedules and created more public skepticism around vaccines.

Clatsop County was expecting to administer the Johnson & Johnson vaccine to some priority groups at clinics this month, including seafood workers, people who are homebound, residents in rural parts of the county and the homeless.

Margo Lalich, the county's interim public health director, said the county plans to move forward using the Moderna vaccine at the clinics, including an event scheduled at the end of the month for the homeless.

Lalich said the county administered 200 doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine before the pause, including at a clinic for seafood workers on Monday.

"The adverse reactions that led to the pause are extremely rare — six cases out of more than 6 mil-

lion doses nationwide," the county's vaccine task force said in a statement. "However, if you recently received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, and experience severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath within three weeks after vaccination, contact your health care provider, or seek medical care."

While vaccine eligibility opens to all Oregonians 16 and older on Monday, the county only has Moderna vaccines, which have only been approved for people 18 and older.

Lalich told county commissioners on Wednesday that Clatsop, Tillamook and Columbia counties have talked with the Oregon Health Authority about getting access to Pfizer vaccines — which are approved for people 16 and older — to vaccinate 16- and 17-year-olds.

"They're not a large segment of our population," Lalich said. "But how can we get Pfizer to Clatsop County or to all of these counties?"

"So we started that conversation on Monday. And so I would expect by next week we'll start solidifying a plan. But right now, only 18 years and older."

As of Friday, 23,267 vaccine doses have been administered in the county, and 8,420 people were fully vaccinated. The county's goal to reach herd immunity against the virus is vaccinating 27,533 people.

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CLATSOP CARE HEALTH & REHABILITATION CENTER

An update from your local nursing home

As a not-for-profit community supported organization, it's very important to us to keep the community informed of what's happening in our facility. That's why we've decided to share updates each week in the local paper.

AN UPDATE ON COVID-19

We currently do not have any cases of COVID-19 among our residents or staff. We continue to be very vigilant in the fight against this illness. We conduct regular COVID-19 testing of all staff.

VISITING A LOVED ONE

Our community is currently open for indoor visitation by appointment. Appointments allow us to properly sanitize our facility with each incoming visitor. Please contact the facility to schedule an appointment to visit a loved one: (503) 325 - 0313.

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION

For updates to the visitation policies of each of our communities, vaccine information, and other helpful tips, please visit www.ClatsopCareSafety.org.

THE HEALING GARDEN

The healing garden is an essential part of our facility. It is a place for residents and staff alike to recreate, get fresh air, enjoy the sunshine, and heal. You can be a part of this special place by helping us get the garden ready for spring! If you'd like to donate plants, soil, tools, or get your hands dirty, please contact the facility by phone at 503-325-0313 or email cjohnson@clatsopcare.org.



Thank you for your continued support!

for more information, please visit
www.ClatsopCare.org

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