

# the Astorian

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## CORONAVIRUS



Photos by Edward Stratton/The Astorian

The Tadei family has placed yard signs and hired a lawyer to fight a proposed annex for Bethany Free Lutheran Church because it would block the Columbia River views of patriarch Vincent Tadei.

## EXPANSION REVIVES DEBATE ON PROTECTING VIEWS

A balance between quality-of-life values and property rights

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Astorian

A family is threatening to take a fight against a proposed church annex in Uppertown to the state Land Use Board of Appeals to protect their views of the Columbia River.

The argument has revived the issue of how Astoria, a city known for panoramic views, balances quality-of-life values with property rights.

Members of Bethany Free Lutheran Church, located on 34th Street, want to build a 5,000-square-foot annex across the street in a vacant lot the congregation purchased in the 1980s. The building, gabled to mimic the church, would rise to 34 feet in an east-west orientation.

The church annex would block the view of Vincent Tadei, who has lived next door for 88 years, and whose family built the home in 1904. The family has installed yard signs decrying the potential expansion and has hired a lawyer to fight the project.

After failing to convince the Historic Landmarks Commission and City Council to deny the project's design, the Tadei family filed a notice of intent with the state appeals board to intervene. The deadline is approaching for the city to prepare a written record of its decision for the state to review.

"The city is going to be preparing the record on the decision and won't be weighing in or providing any more direction or testimony, based upon the



City Council's decision," City Manager Brett Estes said.

Carrie Richter, the lawyer for the Tadei family, has argued that the landmarks commission improperly compared the church annex to large commercial buildings along U.S. Highway 30 and a nonhistoric church built in the 1980s when determining neighborhood compatibility, rather than accounting for the nearby historic homes it would dwarf.

City councilors commiserated with the Tadei family over concerns with the size of the church annex. But they backed the commission's decision, agreeing with the argument that the neighborhood includes larger buildings.

"I feel for the neighborhood who disagree with the structure itself, the size of it," City Councilor Joan Herman said. "But for its site right along U.S. (Highway) 30, or very, very close to it,

I don't think it's incompatible."

The project came before the Planning Commission last month for a conditional use permit to build on residentially zoned property. But with a deal in the works to realign a sewer line, move the church annex about 30 feet east and clear the view for the Tadei family, the application was held off until June.

"I showed a member of the Tadei family exactly what the realignment would look like and he seemed very receptive to it," said Randy Stemper, a developer representing the church. "So I would assume, based on the conversation, that if we can make this sewer realignment work, this whole thing's going to go away."

Tadei and his son, Peter, a co-owner of the home, declined to comment on whether the appeal would continue if

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## Fireworks return for July Fourth

An official show after last year's surprise display

By ALYSSA EVANS  
The Astorian

Fireworks enthusiasts will have a reason to celebrate this summer — the Fourth of July fireworks show is scheduled to happen this year in Astoria.

The Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce announced the event on Thursday, marking a change from the 2020 celebration, which was initially canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic. Local businesses funded a surprise show, which was revealed to the public an hour ahead of the display on July 4.

Last year's show cost an estimated \$20,000, about twice the budget of the city's 2019 show. This year's show is expected to be the city's largest yet, according to the chamber.

The chamber and more than 20 businesses are collaborating on the event, which is being paid for entirely by businesses. Major contributors include Robert Dorn, the CEO of Hyak Maritime, who led the effort last summer; former Astoria Mayor Willis Van Dusen, of Van Dusen Beverages; and Ohana Media Group, which owns KAST and other radio stations.

"The chamber is honored to have the support from these business partners to keep this annual event on the calendar this year,"

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## Criticism emerges on virus risk

Astoria, Warrenton ask Brown for changes

By NICOLE BALES  
The Astorian

Astoria and Warrenton political and business leaders are calling on the state to eliminate the warning week for counties moving into lower risk levels for the coronavirus.

Gov. Kate Brown canceled the warning week in April as the state experienced a surge of virus cases that pushed 15 counties into extreme risk. The policy change was an effort to speed up the return to normal business operations by announcing risk level changes weekly instead of every two weeks.

In mid-May, when the state no longer met the hospitalization metrics for extreme risk, the

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County changes virus reporting  
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## Lawmakers extend residential foreclosure ban

Extension could go through December

By PETER WONG  
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — Gov. Kate Brown is the final stop for a bill that reinstates a moratorium on residential foreclosures through June, and possibly to the end of this year, if the governor chooses to extend it by executive order.

The state House gave final approval on Wednesday to an amended House Bill 2009 by a 36-20 vote. The Senate approved

the bill in May. The bill clarifies that a borrower must give notice to the lender of an inability to pay mortgage — and show how the coronavirus pandemic affected the borrower's ability to pay, such as a loss of job or income.

"We continued to work on the language as some concerns came up after this bill had passed the House," state Rep. Paul Holvey, a Democrat from Eugene and the bill's floor manager, said.

Brown imposed a moratorium by executive order at the outset of the pandemic more than a year ago. A June special session of the Legislature wrote Brown's order into law, and let her extend it by order through December.

Unlike the original state



Colin Murphey/The Astorian

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Lawmakers have extended a ban on residential foreclosures during the coronavirus pandemic.

