



R.J. Marx/The Astorian

The proposed site of the 72-unit Cross Creek development in Seaside.

Subdivision: The complex would use an existing, shared driveway

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The site is zoned residential high density, which allows the development, according to the transportation impact study prepared by property owners.

"During heavy traffic hours, I think it's a foregone conclusion it's going to have traffic backed up basically to their development," Kevin Cupples, the city's planning director, said.

According to the owners' traffic study, based on a review of the most recent five years of available crash data, no significant trends or crash patterns were identified at any of the study intersections that indicated safety concerns.

The complex would use the existing, shared driveway serving the nearby commercial spaces, according to the study. The study also says the site access and sidewalk configuration provides efficient access and circulation for anticipated pedestrians, bicycles and vehicles.

"The Lancaster Mobley traffic study has determined the project will be well integrated with the surrounding transportation facilities," Adam Dailey, of A.M. Engi-

neering, said on behalf of the owners. "They have determined the additional traffic generated by this development will not require additional access or modification to the existing access is not necessary."

In conjunction with the conditional use permit, the developers submitted a highway overlay zone request and a preliminary subdivision plat that would create a separate lot for each of the housing units and common ownership of the access and off-street parking areas.

Discussion will continue at the Planning Commission's next meeting in August as commissioners sought a proposal for conditional items and further discussion of a pedestrian and bicycle safety plan.

"There are many driveway access points along U.S. 101 through Seaside — which the section is — in the urban areas so there's greater likelihood of local people biking," Kleczek said. "I think it's super important, and it's part of our job as the Planning Commission to start to set those standards for developments to be built for people moving, not just cars moving."

AstoriUS Day: 'It's a good opportunity for businesses to get creative'

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Over 20 businesses will be hosting performances, projects, sidewalk sales, tastings and more. Autumn Eve Montgomery Hurd, a local illustrator, has designed stickers to honor the event and the many businesses participating.

"It's a good opportunity for businesses to get creative," said Shelby Meyers, the downtown association's marketing and promotions manager. "There's also been a lot of new businesses that have opened up in Astoria over the last year. We want to give them the opportunity to introduce themselves to the community."

A handful of businesses are also using the event as an opportunity to give back by donating a portion of their proceeds to local charity organizations.

Visitors can expect musical performances from local artists in the afternoon and evening at RiverSea Gal-

lery, Foragers and Gulley's Butcher Shop, three businesses that aided in organizing the event with the downtown association.

The majority of the event will take place between 10th and 14th streets, but will not require any road closures, Meyers said. Sidewalks will also maintain their level of accessibility, even as a few businesses open up to outside spaces.

Additionally, some participating businesses may ask visitors to wear masks or maintain social distancing protocol as they ease back into life from the pandemic.

The downtown association will be posting on social media throughout the week, highlighting a variety of businesses and organizations that helped organize the event and what they hope to get out of it.

"With so many changes over the past year, we wanted to broaden an event beyond just the sidewalk sales," Meyers said.

Carter: Will attend University of Oregon

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"I said in my graduation speech that he's my hero, and I really meant that," Carter said. He fondly recalls riding around on his grandfather's drivable lawn mower as a child. The business, he said, is a combination of his interest in horticulture and his admiration for his grandfather's work ethic.

As a sixth grader, Carter carried his three-blade push mower around the neighborhood to clear up weed patches for neighbors.

When he suffered a hip injury, however, Carter became frustrated with how his brother was finding success mowing lawns in his absence. The small sibling rivalry quickly became the launching point for Carter's side hustle to turn into a full-

fledged business.

"One lawn became two, two became three," he said. "Then at the start of last year I had about 10 to 15 regular clients."

The mark of Local Lawnboy's work, Carter said, is a dedication to getting every job perfect. He insists that if it's not what his clients like, they need not pay him. "I want to get it right. My go-to line is, 'My parents feed me either way.'"

Carter — who was a standout soccer player for the Gulls — works seven days a week and manages five full-time employees. Daniel Sturgell, the owner of Warrenton-based 3D Landscape, helped Carter's business by lending him trucks for mulch distribution and other tasks.

"He's really driven for



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

T. Paul's Urban Cafe has temporarily closed.

Restaurants: 'We're all in the same boat'

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an all-time high of 13.2% within the first two months of the pandemic.

The state found that 48% of those initial job losses were in the leisure and hospitality sector, such as hotels, restaurants and bars, along with other services like barber shops and hair salons and private education.

'It just wasn't healthy for them'

Despite the economic blow of the pandemic, many people have not immediately returned to the workforce as jobs become available. While extended unemployment insurance has provided some cushion, workers have cited difficulties with child care, housing and family obligations. Some also used the time off to reevaluate whether they want to go back to the same type of work, especially lower-wage jobs.

In July, the minimum wage in Clatsop County increased to \$12.75 an hour — up from \$12. Many restaurants have raised hourly pay and provided other incentives to help fill jobs but are still having trouble finding staff.

At Bridgewater Bistro, June was the busiest month since the restaurant opened in Uniontown in 2007, Ann Kischner said. "It's busy all day and every day," she said.

At that point, they began to worry for the well-being of their employees. "I

saw them and realized, 'You don't even have time to visit your mom,'" she said. "It just wasn't healthy for them."

So Bridgewater decided to make some schedule adjustments. The restaurant closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays. They also shut down between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. on other days to give staff a chance to transition between lunch and dinner.

Even though virus restrictions have been lifted, the restaurant has kept seating at 50% capacity.

"Why add tables to stress our employees out more?" Tony Kischner said. "I'm going to continue to protect my staff and keep them from getting sick and overwhelmed."

In May, T. Paul's Urban Cafe announced they would temporarily close downtown. T. Paul's Supper Club, their other restaurant, also

juggled hours. According to a sign out front on 12th Street, the restaurant is hiring for all positions, both full and part time.

Geno's Pizza and Burgers announced during the spring that they would be closed on Tuesdays until they are able to find more staff. They shut down early and closed entirely on numerous days in June. A "help wanted" sign sits in their window in Uppertown.

Street 14 Cafe is closed on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. They were recruiting a new kitchen manager and chef on social media in June.

"We're all in the same boat," Ann Kischner said. "That's comforting to know."

'People are disappointed and even occasionally angry'

The disruption has caused

some negative reaction from customers who were eager to have the virus restrictions lifted.

"People are disappointed and even occasionally angry," Ann Kischner said.

But she tries to be understanding as people readjust to life.

"It's just a stressful time for everyone," she said. "People have a certain level of tension in their life. We all do. So we tell servers to expect that and to be patient with people."

In the meantime, Bridgewater Bistro will continue looking for staff.

"When people want to return to the workforce and the restaurant industry, we will be willing and able to hire and pay those people," Tony Kischner said. "We hope that conditions will allow us to return back to normal soon."



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