

# Spruce Up: ‘It’s like everybody kind of pitches in and does good’

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noted that in the past, the city was more aggressive when dealing with nuisance properties and received guidance to adjust the tactics.

The city is working to improve several properties across town, but the process can be challenging, Engbretson said.

Several commissioners felt that properties that either presented safety issues or could help maximize commercial growth should be prioritized.

“I know of businesses that would like to go into Hammond that can’t go into Hammond because there’s no available real estate,” Mayor Henry Balensifer told The Astorian. The locations with potential for new business, he said, are not available due to the properties or structures being unfit.

The mayor recognized that nuisance properties can have a wide-ranging and negative impact.

“Same with housing stock,” Balensifer said. “If houses in the city are allowed to atrophy, then that’s a reduction of housing stock available to either renters or long-term owners.

“So the problem is figuring out the clearest ones, and then prioritizing the rest, because we’re still understaffed, we’re still trying to move through the process and it’ll take some time to clear them. But some of the properties are also pretty bad — those will take a little bit more effort.”

### Keeping track

Moving forward, the city plans to team up the City Commission and the Planning Commission with Spruce Up to keep track of nuisance properties.

The Hoxseys — and



Photos by Lydia Ely/The Astorian

**ABOVE:** Items are piled outside a house on S. Main Avenue. **RIGHT:** The old post office in Hammond is one of the buildings Spruce Up Warrenton is focusing on.

the other volunteers within Spruce Up — have worked with Commissioner Tom Dyer in the past to assist with labor.

While Spruce Up may not be involved in pressing property owners to clean up their properties, the Hoxseys believe they shine a light on problematic places and attempt to hold the city accountable for taking care of them.

“What we found is if we clean up one property, the neighbors kind of clean up, too,” Brenda Hoxsey said. “In that way, it’s been really positive. I think that there’s just a real strong bond between Spruce Up Warrenton, the city, the city planners and the people that live in the neighborhood.

“It’s like everybody kind of pitches in and does good.”

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**Brenda Hoxsey** | started Spruce Up Warrenton with her husband, Norm



### Record of Decision for the Northwest Training and Testing Supplemental EIS/OEIS

**Notice of Availability**

The U.S. Navy, after carefully weighing the operational and environmental consequences of the Proposed Action, is announcing the release of the Record of Decision to continue training and testing activities at sea and in associated airspace within the Study Area as described in the Northwest Training and Testing (NWT) Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS).

**Record of Decision**

The Record of Decision documents the Navy’s decision to continue training and testing activities within the Study Area as described under Alternative 1, the Preferred Alternative.

The Navy made this decision after considering the potential impacts training and testing activities may have on human, natural, and cultural environments, as well as comments from elected officials, government agencies, tribes, nongovernmental organizations, and the public on the proposal and environmental analysis.

The Navy is committed to being a good steward of the environment and will continue to implement mitigation measures to avoid or reduce potential environmental impacts from training and testing.

**For More Information**

The Navy is committed to providing the public an accessible version of the Record of Decision during COVID-19 conditions. The Record of Decision, Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS, and supporting documents are available online at [www.NWTTEIS.com](http://www.NWTTEIS.com).

If you need assistance accessing the document or have media inquiries, please contact Ms. Julianne Stanford, Navy Region Northwest Public Affairs Office, at [julianne.stanford@navy.mil](mailto:julianne.stanford@navy.mil) or 360-867-8525. For all other queries or if you require additional information about the project, please contact Ms. Jackie Queen, Project Manager, at [projectmanager@nwtteis.com](mailto:projectmanager@nwtteis.com).

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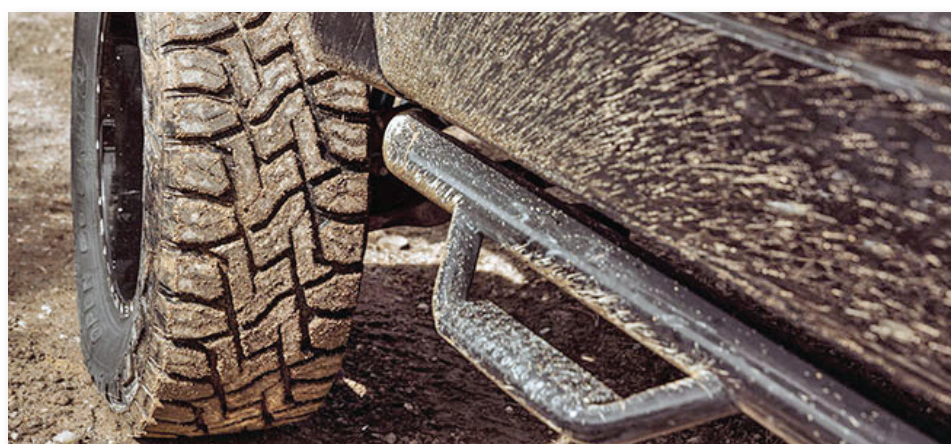


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