

What's next in the city's 2017 growth scheme

The Columbia Press

Warrenton is king in 2017... at least when it comes to growth.

Residents can expect some changes as more than 450 expected new homes are built in the year ahead and hundreds more in the next decade.

Already it's set up as the shopping hub, with WalMart, Home Depot, Costco and other large stores established or in the works.

Natural Grocers is on its way to Youngs Bay Plaza with expectations of opening in May.

Here's a status update on various development and business issues facing the city.

• Clatsop County Sheriff Tom Bergin has agreed to act as facilitator for a meeting between the city of Warrenton and the Skipanon Water Control District. The two groups have tussled over ownership of the Eighth

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Voters will get a say on low-income housing

By CINDY YINGST
The Columbia Press



Above: A group playing Pokemon Go gathers in what will become a memorial park adjacent to the post office and Dairy Maid.
Left: Voters will decide what to do with a large piece of land between City Hall and Robinson Park.

A large piece of land behind City Hall is the perfect spot for a low-income housing development with lots of green space and perhaps a second dog park.

Now the town's voters must be convinced of the plan and a builder enticed to make the dream come true.

The City Commission – in its role as the Warrenton Urban Renewal Agency -- met Wednesday afternoon with members of the agency's advisory panel to devise a plan for the next decade.

They talked about a multitude of ideas, including landscaping and other improvements to the four-way stop at the heart of town.

And they decided to place the low-income housing development on the ballot in

the spring.

The city owns the land. Selling it would bring in a good chunk of money.

Measure 4-181, which was passed by voters in 2015, requires the city to get approval from residents before selling off assets worth \$100,000 or more.

Those tasked with deciding the best way to spend urban renewal funds decided unanimously the housing project fits in with urban renewal goals.

Urban renewal is the process of fixing older neighborhoods, improving economic stability and making the city a better place to live.

The first decade for the 10-year-old Warrenton Urban Renewal Agency was spent primarily fixing Warrenton Marina. Now the docks are complete, a new

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Stopping the wind from messing with our recyclables

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The winds are coming. And, with them, the inevitable strewn trash and recyclables.

Instead of dreading trash day, Warrenton residents have a simple solution to keep their recyclables in the bin.

The city has an arrangement with Recology to provide wind latches for free to any Warrenton resident who asks.

Those who live outside city limits can get them for \$15.

"Wind latches play an important part in helping keep our streets and

neighborhoods clean and attractive," said Mayor Henry Balensifer, who has brought the latches up at several recent City Commission meetings.

"It's hard to recycle when the winter winds come through, tip your can over and scatter everything all over your neighborhood and road. The cans are top-heavy as is, and filling it with empty plastic doesn't provide a lot of weight for it to stay upright."

Because residents who work put the can out before leaving in the morning, they might sit for hours before being dumped, adding to the problem.

Balensifer and Commissioner Mark Baldwin – during his first stint on the

City Commission – joined forces to require the contracted recycling service to come up with a solution for the tip-prone bins.

"They (Recology) had to come up with the solution ... because they had notified the city they would no longer service cans held down with bungees or other home-job methods for keeping the cans shut," Balensifer said. "This was in response to a bungee that snapped and detached the retina of a Recology employee."

How do they work? When the can is upright, the clip falls and hooks over the edge of the

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Wind latches can prevent recycle bin lids from flying open.