



Submitted photo

Award winners (left to right) are Michael Autio, Randy McClelland, Dr. William Armington and Willis Van Dusen.

CMH Foundation lauds four instrumental in cancer center

Four men who have contributed much toward Columbia Memorial Hospital's new cancer facility were honored recently with a dinner and "tribute to giving."

Michael Autio, immediate past board chairman of the CMH Foundation, was given the Columbia Award for 22 years of service on behalf of the foundation and the hospital.

"Mike has played a significant role in the success of both the Foundation and the hospital," said Bill Garvin, the foundation's current chairman. "He has spent countless hours volunteering in the community as well."

Dr. William Armington was given the first Caduceus Award, which recognizes a physician or provider who has gone above and beyond to advance philanthropy at the hospital and in the community.

"Dr. Armington believes in giving back to his community," hospital board Chairwoman Constance Waisanen said. "He believes that is what having a real community is all about—people coming together to give their money, their time and their talent to

make things happen."

Willis Van Dusen, longtime mayor of Astoria who has raised millions of dollars for programs throughout Clatsop County including \$3 million for the new cancer center, received the Terry Award.

Randy McClelland, director of strategic initiatives for CMH, received the President's Award for his work in coordinating the artwork in the new cancer center.

The CMH-OHSU Knight Cancer Collaborative is slated to open next month adjacent to the hospital.

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Beautify: Downtown eyed for improvements

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property surrounding much of Harbor Drive, downtown and along Main Avenue past the high school.

And there were beautification projects downtown and water and sewer pump station repairs to keep the area from flooding.

An urban renewal agency is tasked with removing blighted areas, helping existing businesses thrive and making the town a better place for its residents.

"I've lived here all my life and I want to see it fixed up," advisory committee member Dan Jackson said at a meeting earlier this month. "It looks like a dump sometimes."

The plaza is a way to get on the right track, group members believe.

"Once you start to build a beautiful community, people want to get involved," landscape architect Beth Holland told them.

Her plans would increase landscaping on all corners of the four-way stop and put seating and lights at what would become the new veterans memorial park.

In addition to the four-way stop, Holland is working on

two other beautification projects for the city: landscaping the bulb-outs under the power poles on Main Avenue and making a pocket park in the triangular-shaped parcel where Main meets Alt Highway 101, just north of the high school.

"It sets a tempo," Holland said of the landscaping.

"It says 'we care about ourselves. We're a good community.' And I see that here, where the fishermen helped create Lighthouse Park and the VFW wants to build a



A replica of the bronze statue that will go in the park at the four-way stop.

memorial to war veterans."

VFW Fort Stevens Post 10580 has raised money for the city's first veterans monument and the city is facilitating placement of their 13-foot bronze statue at the four-way stop – as the centerpiece of the new memorial park plaza.

"I'm so glad to see this finally moving forward," Fraunfelder said. "Now we need the city to say, 'Let's do it.' These projects have been wonderful for us. It's a step in the right direction."

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