

Future of Finnish heritage site in limbo

Lindgren House at Cullaby Lake is without caretakers

BY CINDY YINGST
The Columbia Press

The Finnish community and Clatsop County officials are mulling what to do about the historic Lindgren cabin in Cullaby Lake County Park.

The group tasked with its upkeep, the Finnish American Historical Society of the West, has few active members and is disbanding.

The topic has come up a few times during meetings of the county's Recreational Lands Planning and Advisory Committee.

"There have been questions about who owns it," said Steve Meshke, Clatsop County's natural resources manager. "When it was moved to the park, there was kind of a handshake between the road master and a county commissioner, but nothing was

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If you go

The Lindgren House is in Cullaby Lake County Park, 89990 Hawkins Road, off Highway 101 just south of Warrenton. There is a \$3 day-use fee. The house sits behind a locked fence.



Johanna and Erik Lindgren, inset, built the cedar cabin in a remote forest location near Hamlet. Today, it sits behind a fence at Cullaby Lake County Park.

Walmart ready to raise the roof

The Columbia Press

Workers at the Walmart site are placing support columns and steel trusses for the building's roof, which is expected to go on in the next two weeks, a spokesman said.

The store will not be ready for the Christmas season, however.

"Once the roof is on, the attention will turn to the interior of the store, including the electrical, plumbing and refrigeration for the store's grocery area," a construction spokesman said. "Those activities will carry us into next year and, at this point, we expect the store will open later in 2018."

In addition to construction jobs, the company plans to hire 250 to 300 employees to operate the store once it's open.

Last month, the Walmart corporation vowed to purchase by 2023 an additional \$250 billion in products that support American jobs.

In the fiscal year that ended June 30, Walmart reported spending \$665 million among 406 suppliers in Oregon, which supported 17,500 Oregon jobs.

Warrenton Warming Center prepares for 2nd season

The Columbia Press

Warrenton Warming Center will open this month for its second full season, but more volunteers are crucial.

"We're coming back bigger, better, stronger," said Elle Wolf, a board member.

"We have a plan," added Rick Newton, a city commissioner who serves on the board.

The center's mission is to provide a warm, safe place with food, love and support, based on principles found in Luke 10:25-36 of the Bible.

While the center is based at Calvary Assembly of God on Main Avenue, board members point out it's a non-denominational organization that wants only to help those without homes during the bleakest part of winter.

"We just don't want people dying on the street," said Darlene Warren, board president. "We have a place for them to go, get warm, take a shower, have a nice meal."

The warming center formed in February 2016 and opened the following winter, when

temperatures dropped below 38 degrees or there were severe weather warnings. Last winter, they opened more than 50 nights with a 12-beds.

This year, men and women will be separated in sleeping areas and meals will be more simple. The group has extra blankets and sleeping bags should more than 12 people come on any given night.

The group has received donations from Friends of Columbia Community Mental Health, L&D Race Tech, the Pioneers Motorcycle Club

and through fund-raising and individuals. But money is needed to purchase supplies and food (because of health laws, no home-made food can be accepted) and pay the church for utilities used to keep the center open.

At least 70 volunteers are needed to cover three-hour shifts when the center is operational and to run the laundry. The board is considering hiring someone to handle the volunteer scheduling if no one offers to do that laborious task.

How to help

To volunteer, attend a training meeting from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 5, at Calvary Assembly of God, 1365 S. Main Ave. Pizza and drinks will be provided.

Tax-deductible donations can be mailed to PO Box 1012, Warrenton OR 97146.

New volunteers must have a background check and all volunteers must attend a training meeting.

"Last year was a learning curve," Wolf said. "But it was our first time. There were a lot of unforeseen things."