

## Grant program could help residents clean up

*The Columbia Press*

Warrenton's Urban Renewal Agency wants to develop a plan that would provide grants to residents who want to clean up their property.

"There is a façade grant program for commercial buildings; we could offer something similar for residences," City Manager Linda Engbretson said.

A potential problem is whether tax money raised within the urban renewal district can be used this way, she said. Urban renewal districts are created to target blight in hopes of increasing an area's economic vitality.

### *Blight: 10 properties targeted for improvements*

*Continued from Page 1*  
the city takes against problem properties, beginning with placing a yellow tag, then conducting

The agency is an entity separate from the City Commission and has its own budget. An advisory committee made up of residents makes recommendations to the agency on various programs and spending decisions. A complete overhaul of Warrenton Marina was the agency's first major project.

The five city commissioners currently serve as the Warrenton Urban Renewal Agency, which has the final say on spending decisions.

Any grant program that would help residents clean up their properties must include a buy-in from the residents, agency member Rick Newton told Engbretson.

an inspection, conducting a second inspection, giving property owners notice they must remove the nuisance or more action will be taken,

ident, agency member Rick Newton told Engbretson.

"When anything is free, people don't value it," Newton said. "I don't favor a (100 percent) grant. Even if they pay just 20 percent so they've always got some skin in the game."

Member Henry Balensifer agreed, saying he also wouldn't support making the funds available to those who already have had their properties declared nuisances.

Balensifer asked Engbretson to put the grant program on a fast track "so it doesn't go into effect at the end of summer."

City Commission declaration of a nuisance, posting of the nuisance, final inspection, city cleanup/lien.

## Red Cross offers smoke-alarms

Red Cross members will be providing free smoke alarms and installing them in Seaside this weekend for people who signed up.

The Home Fire Campaign is taking sign-ups for Warrenton residents.

Each year, the Red Cross responds to nearly 64,000 disasters, the majority of them home fires, according to the agency, which set a goal of reducing fire-related deaths and injuries in the United States by 25 percent.

"A working smoke alarm doubles your chances of getting out alive," said Jenny

Carver, the Red Cross' disaster program manager for the North Coast. "We're trying to raise awareness about the program."

To sign up for a free smoke alarm installation, call 503-528-5783 or email preparedness@redcross.org.

A local volunteer will contact those who sign up and set a time for the installation.

"They'll bring all the smoke alarms and installation equipment as well as home fire safety information," Carver said.

"It takes 20 to 30 minutes at most."

## NW Natural customers to see credits

NW Natural customers will see a credit on their June bill.

The return of \$11.6 million is a result of the efficiencies of natural gas pipelines and underground storage, the utility wrote in a media release.

Similar to credits issued in 2017, the average residential customer will receive a credit of about \$12. The average small commercial customer can expect to see a June bill credit of about \$52.

"Our teams put in so much work behind-the-scenes to make sure we're efficiently using our pipelines and gas storage," said David H. Anderson, NW Natural president. "This year's bill credits are proof of that effort."

Credits are based upon pipeline capacity management and use of the company's underground natural gas storage facility at Mist in Columbia County.

## Reading program kicks off at Warrenton library

"Libraries Rock," Warrenton Community Library's summer reading program, is under way.

A kick-off party was held Saturday and sign-ups will be taken through June 30.

To help, contact the library 503-861-8268. Teens who sign up by this week and complete the entire summer

will receive a letter of community service for their college file and an extra entry into the grand prize drawing at the end of summer.

- Wednesdays: Crafts Day
- Saturdays: Saturday Stories at 11 a.m., with members of the community reading stories about their professions, and Read-to-a-Dog

on the first Saturday of each month.

- June 21: Performer Okaida will do "dancing feet/talking drum" at 3 p.m.

Readers receive gifts throughout the summer, depending on what they complete. At the end of summer, prizes will be awarded for reading achievements.

### Public Safety Calls

*Continued from Page 2*

- Pickup leaking fuel, 8:37 p.m. June 7, 1800 block Southeast Ensign Lane.

#### MEDICAL CALLS

- Male with ankle injury, 9:13 a.m. June 4, 0-100 block Southwest Birch Court.
- Female with diabetic issue, 12:23 p.m. June 5, 1800 block Southeast Ensign Lane.
- Male with fainting episode, 1:53 p.m. June 5, VA Clinic Camp

Rilea.

- Male with an infection, 10:28 a.m. June 6, VA Clinic Camp Rilea.
- Male who fell in street, 12:14 a.m. June 7, 33200 block Sunset Beach Lane.
- Male who fell last night, 12:35 p.m. June 7, Northwest Senior and Disability Services.
- Male with swollen hand, 4:03 a.m. June 8, 1900 block South Main Avenue.
- Male with neck injury, 3:34

p.m. June 9, 1600 block Southeast Ensign Lane.

- Male with weakness, 5:42 p.m. June 9, 700 block Southwest Juniper Avenue.
- Female having seizures, 10:53 p.m. June 9, 1600 block Southeast Dolphin Avenue.
- Female sleeping in pickup, 3:54 a.m. June 10, 1800 block Southeast Ensign Lane.
- Female with chest pain, 10:40 p.m. June 10, 2200 block Southeast Dolphin Avenue.

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