

Designs approved for Scandinavian Heritage Park

The city of Astoria, its parks board and the Historic Landmarks Commission recently gave approval for the design of a park on the Astoria Riverwalk to honor the hardships and contributions of early Scandinavian immigrants to Clatsop County.

The approvals were the result of a three-year process



The official logo and an aerial view of the park's design.

by the Astoria Scandinavian Heritage Association, which included input from Scandinavian lodges and the general public and the design talents of the West Studio, a landscape architect firm in Seattle.

Early funding came from the Oregon Community Foundation, but most of \$200,000 to cover architectural and engineering costs came from local donors and subsequent grants from Astoria Sunday Market, the Pacific Power Foundation, the Samuel S. Johnson Foundation, the Finlandia Foundation's Columbia Pacific Chapter, and the Oregon Cultural Trust.

Construction costs are es-

timated at \$980,000 and fund-raising efforts are under way.

The Fort George Brewery will host a benefit night for the Astoria Scandinavian Heritage Park from 4 to 9 p.m. Jan. 29.

The association will provide a silent auction, live music by the Polka Dots (duo accordions and bass), performance and participatory dance with the Nordic-Viking Dancers, a visit by the Astoria Scan Fest Troll, Scandinavian trivia contests, and an Ole and Sven joke contest.

More information about the park is available at www.astoriascanpark.org, including a link for online donations.

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Helping hands for the holidays



Courtesy Warrenton Firefighters Association

Warrenton Firefighters Association provided Christmas food boxes for 57 residents. Each had an opportunity to drive through the truck bay and pick up a box loaded with Christmas dinner food items.

Meanwhile, Warrenton-Hammond Healthy Kids had its third annual toy drive and provided toy and gift baskets to 255 children. A gift-wrapping party was held the Friday before Christmas at Christian Church of Warrenton.

Fun run planned New Year's Day

Astoria's Parks & Recreation invites runners and walkers to join in a New Year Fun Run at 11 a.m. Jan. 1.

The 5-kilometer run or family stroll will take place on the Riverwalk. Participants should meet on the Riverwalk across the street from the Aquatic Center. All

abilities are welcome.

The top male and female finishers will receive prizes. Registration begins at 10 a.m. at the Maritime Memorial Park adjacent to the Columbia River Maritime Museum. Cost is \$10, which supports parks and recreation programs.

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