

Makeover: Post office, other buildings part of plan

Continued from Page 1

declined to speak directly to a reporter.

"He won't accept the grant and said he'd rather do the work himself," she said. "But he wants to cooperate with what we want to do in terms of the beautification needs of the city."

There will be additional landscaping, some safety improvements -- such as adding a walkway in front of the parking area -- and the building will be painted to complement the colors of City Hall.

It's a highly visible building at the core of downtown, said Kevin Cronin, Community Development director.

A new lease with the federal government extends the post office's presence there for another five years, Bridgens said.

The grassy area at the corner, which is owned by the city, is slated for a park plaza that includes the veterans memorial. A landscape architect is working on plans for benches, brickwork, shrubs and small trees that would make it a small community gathering place.

The brown building across the street and behind Warrenton Mini Mart could house a food court, Bridgens said, although those plans still are far in the future. The building's owner is open to working with commercial ventures.

The city's 875-acre urban renewal district covers all of downtown, parts of Harbor Drive and some outlying areas.

It was established in 2007 to revitalize downtown and, although it's a separate entity, is managed by the city commissioners who act as the Warrenton Urban Re-

newal Agency.

Recently, the group expanded its façade improvement program so that owners within the district can apply for grants to improve their properties. The agency will match up to \$10,000 for qualifying projects in hopes of spurring new interest in the program. Previously, the grants would match only \$5,000.

Other development projects in the works:

- Plans were approved for a 104-foot Verizon Wireless tower at Warrenton High School. The tower, which includes a concrete pad and ground equipment within a fenced area, is adjacent to the football field at the back of the campus.

There are no residences within 400 feet of the macrocell facility. The tower will fill a significant gap in coverage for Verizon's customers in Warrenton, the company said. Construction is expected in the summer.

- A hearing is set for March 14 on Clear Lake, a 15-lot subdivision that will extend Kalmia Avenue north toward the small Clear Lake and property owned by the North Coast Land Conservancy.

The detached family homes are proposed by Gil Gramson's Sandridge Construction.

- Wayne DeWilde of Shamrock Yachats LLC has submitted an application to the city's building department to expand a mini-storage facility with 60 revitalized shipping containers.

The project at 2385 S.E. Dolphin Ave. is in an area with other industrial businesses and a derelict house on the property would be demolished.

Historical society offers way to Experience Oregon

Oregon Historical Society recently unveiled its new 7,000-square-foot exhibit "Experience Oregon," which allows visitors to learn about the people, places, and events that have shaped the state.

The Feb. 14 unveiling was on the state's 160th birthday.

"Experience Oregon is very aptly named," said Kerry Tymchuk, executive director of the Oregon Historical Society. "It is a state-of-the-art immersive experience."

There are priceless artifacts and breathtaking images, she said, along with unforgettable stories of individuals who made and changed history.

Visitors enter Experience Oregon through a panoramic theater that introduces major themes and sets the stage for the exhibit. Land and water are two of the most pervasive topics covered, displaying the diversity of Oregon's land-



A photo from the exhibit shows the 1905 Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition's Bridge of Nations over Guild Lake in Portland. The lake was filled in by the 1920s.

Courtesy Oregon Historical Society

scape, as well as people's historical and ongoing relationships with its resources.

Visitors follow a "river" along the floor to reinforce the importance of water to Oregon's history, and to the many people who call the state home.

"The design process for Experience Oregon was truly cutting-edge, and is one of the aspects that makes this exhibition so unique," Museum Director Helen B. Louise said.

"Rather than having one single curator, the content and conceptualization for Experience Oregon has been a collaboration of stakeholders, making this such a rich exhibition, both in content and design."

The museum is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from noon to 5 p.m. Sundays. Admission is \$10. The museum is at 1200 S.W. Park Ave., Portland.

Road work

ASTORIA

- A project to replace six aging bridges along the Astoria waterfront will continue through June 2020.

- Seventh, Ninth and Eleventh streets will be rebuilt with an expected June opening. Construction on Sixth, Eighth and Tenth streets will begin in the summer and should be complete by June 2020.

CLATSOP COUNTY

- County crews will clean beach approaches in the Astoria district. Drivers should expect minor delays.

- Roadside brush removal will be done in the Hamlet area and along Lewis & Clark Road.

- Crews will continue road maintenance on Taylorville Road.

- Work on the Highway 101 bridge over the Neahkahnie Mountain chasm could cause delays through the end of 2020. Crews will be present from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. weekdays and

are repairing concrete under the bridge. Single-lane closures will be necessary.

- Other bridges to be repaired in the same time frame along Highway 101 include the Cape Perpetua viaduct south of Yachats in Lincoln County and the Cape Creek Bridge north of Florence in

Lane County.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

- A project that's replacing the Beaver Creek Bridge over Highway 47 near Vernonia is expected to be complete by May 30. The final paving and striping will occur in early spring.

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