



City of Warrenton

The east wing of the L-shaped Head Start building with failing windows in yellow and siding that needs repair circled in red.

## Head Start: Siding repairs will be expensive

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repairs is likely much higher than what's been budgeted, city officials said.

"So we're spending 15 years of rent to fix the siding," Commissioner Rick Newton said.

Commissioner Pam Ackley suggested the city have a mold test done to ensure chil-

dren and employees aren't at risk from toxic mold.

The test hasn't been completed, Public Works Director Collin Stelzig said Wednesday. The repair project goes out to bid next week.

Several commissioners wondered why the leaks weren't reported before the

maintenance issues reached a crisis point.

"I don't borrow Henry's truck, total it and then don't tell him about it for three years," Baldwin said. "But the bottom line is, we have kids there. I don't care what it costs because it needs to be fixed. ... or we're going to condemn the building."

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## Historic hotel wins \$2.8 million grant

The historic Merwyn Hotel in downtown Astoria won a \$2.88 million award from Oregon Housing and Community Services.

The award is one of 11 projects throughout the state to get LIFT or Local Innovation and Fast Track money. Statewide more than \$34.9 billion will be used to fund 466 new affordable homes.

The Merwyn project will create 40 homes in the grand but deteriorating former hotel on Duane Street, adjacent to Astoria's library.

There will be a mix of studio and one-bedroom apartments, nearly all of them targeting low-income tenants.

Innovative Housing Inc., a Portland-based nonprofit company, is partnering with Lower Columbia Hispanic Council, which will assist with outreach to the Hispanic community from project design to marketing to potential renters.

"These awards will ensure more kids and families throughout the state have a decent, stable, affordable place to call home," Gov. Kate Brown said in making the announcement Monday.

"The LIFT program is a critical tool in our work to ensure that every Oregonian, in communities large and small, has access to housing choices that allow them and their families to thrive."