

Site near City Hall growing into food pod

By CINDY YINGST
The Columbia Press

Warrenton will get a second food truck soon at a developing food pod next to City Hall.

The city's Urban Renewal Agency approved a license agreement Tuesday with Sasquatch Sandwiches and renewed a license agreement with Tres Bros, which has been at the gravel lot for about six months.

The food truck, owned by chef Jason Lancaster, will be his second mobile eatery. He runs a successful truck in the food pod on 11th Street in downtown Astoria, selling things like wild mushroom beef melts, specialty salads and banh mi, a popular Vietnamese sandwich.

"It's a pretty eclectic menu, a little Asian-driven," Lancaster said.

Originally from Seattle, he has worked in restaurants throughout the West, including Bridgewater Bistro and Maggie's on the Prom.

He purchased a 2007 step-side van and converted it into a 14-foot kitchen and has taken it to events such as Astoria Brew Cup, Canon Beach Farmer's Market, Clatsop Community College and the college's maritime campus at Tongue Point.

Tres Bros owners Josh and Yolanda Colby have seen success at the spot with their Nicaraguan food truck. Lancaster plans to start out in Warrenton just two days per week.

"I'm just trying to expand my brand," Lancaster said Wednesday. "I like Warrenton's demographic. It's affordable for young families and I think it's growing in a cool direction. I think my brand would fit in there all snug."

Agency directors decided earlier

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The cost of living here

Warrenton has lowest utility/tax rate and lowest cost of housing

By CINDY YINGST
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Mayor Henry Balensifer was getting a little tired of people telling him Warrenton's residents were being taxed to death.

So he asked city staff to analyze what it costs to live in Warrenton and how it compares to other towns in the region.

"I asked for this as a way to put in perspective our costs of utilities and taxes in the city before budget season," he said in a post on his Facebook page.

Trisha Hayrynen, an analyst in the city's Public Works Department, reviewed the costs of housing, utilities, property taxes such as levies and bonds, and the amounts the cities received compared to the population. The analysis was done for the 2018-19 fiscal year, which ended June 30.

She sent her findings to each of the cities included in the study to get their feedback.

Warrenton turned out to be the least

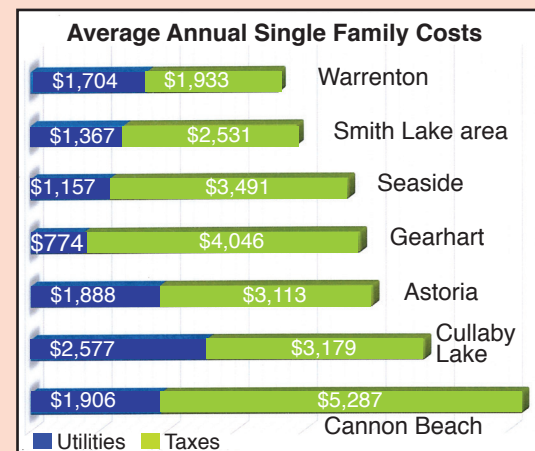
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A construction crew works at the Skipanon Apartments next to Trina & Ron's Place. The project is among the 350 building permits processed by the city of Warrenton this year.

Average Single Family Home Values			
City	Avg SF AV*	Avg SF RMV*	Qty SF Homes*
1 Cannon Beach	464,993	673,564	1,402
2 Gearhart	339,849	458,102	1,194
3 Seaside	241,437	343,065	2,558
4 County 3006	224,346	310,062	255
5 Cullaby Lake	217,382	286,352	132
6 Astoria	169,255	278,084	2,950
7 Warrenton	163,022	259,146	1,416

*Average single-family assessed value, real market value and quantity of homes was calculated using July 2019 tax data.



911 centers should be consolidated, manager contends

The Columbia Press

The case for consolidating Clatsop County's 911 dispatch services in a centralized location out of a tsunami inundation zone is compelling.

A lack of trained personnel statewide, nonstandardized technology and the cost inefficiency of duplicated services plague the county's two dispatch centers, one in Astoria and one in Seaside.

"We live in a very challenging terrain," said Jeff Rusiecki, Emergency Communications manager at the As-

toria Dispatch Center and a Warrenton Police Department reserve officer. He has been involved with the county's 911 dispatch services for two decades.

Officers or deputies working emergency calls in some of the county's remote areas frequently have problems, especially when moving in an area that's not served well by either center.

"It's been said he needs to have a good relationship between him and God," Rusiecki told Warrenton city

commissioners Tuesday night.

"There have been several studies in Clatsop County, all of them recommending consolidation," he said.

The most recent, a Homeland Security Office of Emergency Communications analysis in 2015, noted that both center locations are less than desirable and the county's population is too small to warrant multiple call centers (officially referred to as primary safety answering points).

"As we review communication sys-

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