

The little museum that could

Warrenton Heritage Museum a reinvention of two prior archives

By CINDY YINGST
The Columbia Press

Diane Collier has lived in Warrenton her entire life. But her history museum has moved around a bit.

Collier, 80, is descended from the Clatsops, the native people living here when the Lewis and Clark Expedition arrived in December 1805.

Her love of history grew from her desire to learn more about her past. Plus, "I'm a photoholic," she said.

As her collection of photos, newspaper clippings and local memorabilia grew, Collier was offered space for a small museum in the Fishermen's Memorial Park lighthouse at the four-way stop.

After a few years, she was given the opportunity to move it to the Oregon Welcome Center in Youngs Bay Plaza.

Fifteen years later, Collier was ready to call it quits. But what to do about all that stuff?

Gil Gramson -- former mayor, former city manager, and Collier's former classmate -- made her an offer she couldn't refuse.

Together and with others they



Carol Snell, left, and Diane Collier stand at the entrance to the Warrenton Heritage Museum.

Right: Collier shows off a fishing basket found offshore in the 1950s.

formed a nonprofit group, Warrenton Heritage Museum, and Gramson offered the front portion of his Sandridge Construction company headquarters to house the museum.

"Diane and I go clear back to first

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Need ideas for things to do this Halloween?

The Columbia Press

Fall is finally afoot and spookiness looms large.

Homes are tricked out in Halloween fashion, pubs plan adult costume parties, and coffeehouses are offering pumpkin-spice lattes.

Following are some of the best ways to celebrate fall and Halloween, with or without children.

'HAUNTED' MANSION

The annual holiday light show at the historic D.K. Warren House has been up and running since Oct. 3.

The decorations and lights are choreographed to music and comedy routines through a local radio broadcast. Drivers can set their vehicle's radio to 95.7 and enjoy the show.

Money collected in the secured donation box at the front gate will be donated to Spruce Up Warrenton, a grassroots nonprofit group that works to cleanup downtown.

The house is at 107 N.E. Skipanon Drive and the show runs every evening from dusk to 10 p.m.

TRUNK OR TREAT

Warrenton's second annual Trunk or Treat will be from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31, at Robinson Community Park on Southwest Alder Avenue, behind City Hall.

The event is sponsored by Spruce Up Warrenton.

Businesses in the city are decorating their vehicles and will line up (in a socially distanced way) in the parking areas of the park. Children will be instructed how to circle the park (also in a socially distanced way) collecting treats from vehicle trunks.

DOGGIE DRESS-UP

Warrenton Community Library, 160 S. Main Ave., will have a Halloween
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City's grace period on missed utility payments ending soon

The Columbia Press

Those relying on the city's goodwill may find the days of grace coming to an end.

Early in the pandemic, Warrenton city leaders chose to waive penalties for late utility payments and to cancel all shut offs for nonpayment as many people were hurting financially.

But some renters have taken advan-

tage, City Manager Linda Engbretson told the City Commission during a workshop earlier this month.

"There's nothing to keep that renter from moving out and leaving that bill with the landlord," she said. "It always stays with the property and it's always been a lien" on the property if the renter doesn't pay.

There are 81 accounts in arrears.

Several large businesses -- and some that appear to be doing well -- have taken advantage of the city as well.

A hotel with a history of failing to pay the city for the transient room taxes it charges tourists now is failing to pay its water bill.

A furniture store that closed in the Premarq Center left a large outstand-
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