



City devises its to-do list for next fiscal year

By **CINDY YINGST**
The Columbia Press

A plan unveiled Tuesday for the city's major purchases includes police, fire and maintenance vehicles; trail and park improvements; water and sewer projects; road repairs and more.



Engbretson

"It's a living, moving document," City Manager Linda Engbretson said. "We're trying to put in the anticipated capital improvement projects that we see over the next six years so we can

look at how we're going to fund them. Sometimes, there's work that doesn't get done. Sometimes, we move projects up or down on the list."

Warrenton's 2022-2027 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) includes any future asset or improvement expected to cost more than \$5,000.

Because the city has so many vehicles, for instance, money is set aside each year for replacements. But each city department must be specific about every requested project, vehicle or repair, listing what will be done or purchased and how much it's expected to cost.

In a workshop meeting Tuesday, the city commissioners had their say about things that should be added, removed or reprioritized.

Mayor Henry Balensifer suggested adding a bulkhead fishing pier at Seafarer's Park in Hammond, which he said would give Warrenton the only structure of its kind on the Oregon side of the Columbia River. He'd

See 'Projects' on Page 4

Where the sidewalk ends



Grant boosts city's efforts to improve Main Avenue safety

The Columbia Press

The sidewalk ends way too soon for students headed to Warrenton High School.

In fact, any pedestrians making their way along southern portions of the city's main drag will find little to protect them from the cars, trucks and recreational vehicles using the major thoroughfare.

Yet teens headed to the high school, and younger children en route to Warrenton Grade School a block off Main Avenue continue to put their safety at risk. And city leaders are saying enough is enough.

On Tuesday night, city commissioners signed an agreement with Oregon Department of Transportation to receive a \$400,000 Safe Routes to School grant for the first step of the journey – completion of sidewalks on the west side of Main Avenue between Eighth and 11th streets, which many students use to get to the grade school and the high school.

"I'm a little surprised we got it, but really
See 'Sidewalks' on Page 3

Top: A sidewalk on the north side of Warrenton High leads directly onto South Main Avenue.

Left: A man rides his bike on South Main at 10th Street while a pickup and heavy truck pass.

Cindy Yingst/The Columbia Press

Affordable housing project's site design approved

The Columbia Press

Designs for a 42-unit affordable housing project were unanimously approved by the Warrenton Planning Commission April 8 after a lengthy discussion of potential traffic problems it could cause.

The four-story building is slated to become the first major project in Chelsea Gardens, an area the city zoned for a mix of houses and commerce on land along Highway 101 between Home Depot and Ocean Crest

Chevrolet.

Trillium House would be owned by Northwest Oregon Housing Authority with one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments rented below market rate to struggling families.

"NOHA's mission is to provide affordable and safe housing ... to our area," NOHA Chair Nina Reed told commissioners. "We are so happy to be here for you to review our plans. We know there are a few obstacles, but nothing we can't overcome."

The project includes a secure lobby, on-site manager, community garden, laundry room, playground, community room, covered terrace, and secure bike-storage area.

It's expected to generate an estimated 307 car trips per day, according to a transportation study by Lancaster Mobley, which was commissioned by Trillium's builders after facing huge potential developer fees from the city. Many of the vehicle trips will feed

See 'Trillium' on Page 5