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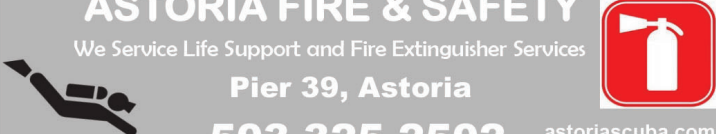
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Economy: Warrenton to look at economic future

Continued from Page 1

Economic Opportunity Analysis grant and work on the analysis begins immediately, the state agency's regional representative told city officials recently.

"One of the things that made the Warrenton EOA application appealing is that it was taking a bit more of a regional approach, recognizing that Warrenton is, perhaps, the economic driver in Clatsop County outside of the ports and tourism in general," the DLCD's Lisa Phipps said.

"Recognizing that Warrenton is a hub, ... we would be including perspectives that extended beyond the city limits of Warrenton."

The idea is to provide an adequate land supply for economic development and employment growth in the city and region.

An Economic Opportunity Analysis will provide an economic forecast for Warrenton, helping it prepare for growth over time. It's the last in a three-pronged analysis the state wants each city to perform.

In 2018, Warrenton conducted the first prong, a housing needs assessment, which showed the city is growing



Work has begun to develop Airport Industrial Park.

faster than any other Clatsop County community. But surprisingly, its housing stock was keeping pace with the growth. It also showed the city is running out of buildable land unencumbered by wetlands.

Shortly after the first assessment came a buildable lands survey of the city's commercial and industrial property.

"This Economic Opportunity Analysis became available as an option for Warrenton because ... you had completed those two pieces," Phipps told city commissioners. "This is the final piece to develop a true picture of what is happening in the city right now."

A state consultant will help the city review national, state

and local trends. Next they'll identify available or potential sites for development and make an inventory of industrial and other employment needs.

They'll analyze job growth over the next 20 years, the city's types of economic advantages and disadvantages, and determine how much land is needed for target industries, Phipps said.

"It helps for setting goals and priorities, and infrastructure investments," she said.

Unfortunately, the pandemic as well as staff shortages within DLCD and the city have postponed the project. Major portions of the analysis must be complete by June 30.



Phipps

Couple makes large donation to Nordic park

A couple from Sweet Home have donated \$250,000 to the effort to raise funds for Astoria's Nordic Heritage Park.

The donation from Tony Larson and Shelly Tack, gives them naming rights for the entry ramp and stairs and moves the park foundation within \$200,000 of its goal of \$1.4 million.

Construction is expected to begin in the fall.

The couple's great-grandparents emigrated from Denmark and Sweden.

Larson's great-grand-



Tony Larson and Shelly Tack

mother was a clerk at the Scandinavian Bank of Astoria in the early 1900s, and he still has many cousins on the North Coast. He has served as co-chair and vice-president

of the Scandinavian Midsummer Festival Association for the last four years and is an active member of the Nordic Park committee.

About 80 percent of donations to the park have come from individual donors. Larson and Tack hope their gift will inspire others to contribute so the park can become a reality in 2021.

Donations can be sent to ASHA, P.O. Box 34, Astoria 97013. Park details and a link to donate online are at astorianordicpark.org.