

Hammond: Continuing a sense of place



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care of them (residents). We had to assure them that they would not lose that.”

While the pandemic has dampened progress in myriad ways, the city of Warrenton has a renewed interest in ensuring Hammond thrives.

The city’s Building and Planning Department has been tasked with taking steps to remove blighted buildings, including vacant shops and even the decaying post office. Others in the city are working to entice new business along Pacific Drive.

The city’s Marinas Advisory Committee is focusing on improvements at Hammond Marina and encouraging businesses to open there.

Spruce Up Warrenton, a grassroots group founded to improve downtown Warrenton, has expanded its mission to include downtown Hammond.

The city’s Parks Advisory Board approved the design for a new metal sign that will go at the entrance of Ham-



The bell from the old Hammond School is preserved in downtown Hammond.

mond’s downtown, an unusual three-lane thoroughfare with a grassy, tree-lined median.

“It’s the perfect little entryway,” Mayor Henry Balensifer said. “Once we get more planning staff and a restructured planning department ... then we can start moving on cleaning up the commercial districts and downtown Hammond. We’ve been working to get people to lease or buy vacant buildings. Right now, it’s a boarded up, abandoned town.”

Balensifer took his ideas for an eye-appealing gateway sign to local designer Polk Riley, who developed both the Hammond sign and vertical signs that would designate

all of Warrenton’s districts – Lexington, Flavel, Kindred, Hammond.

“The idea was, how do we ensure that Hammond gets recognition as a former town and a district of Warrenton,” Balensifer said. “It’s got a ZIP code still and so very much a distinct identity from that. ... But the town doesn’t exist anymore. We want to pay homage to that past and that history while acknowledging we’re all part of Warrenton.”

Money already is in the budget for the large entrance sign; the district designation signs will come later.

“I guess it’s better than nothing,” said Gerald Poe, the only city commissioner who lives in the Hammond District. “I think any improvement to Hammond as far as being welcoming is a good thing.”

He’s looking forward to more focus on the vacant and deteriorating downtown buildings.

Letter to the editor

Support Kujala for county seat

I was very happy to read in the newspaper that our current Warrenton/Hammond area representative on the County Commission, Mark Kujala, is asking to be re-elected.

Our Warrenton and Hammond area is grouped with a small slice of Astoria in the county representation districts, but the vast majority of the population of the area resides west of Youngs Bay.

Mark has always tried to do his absolute best for our people, and for him to be chosen as the County Commission chair acknowledges that the other commissioners believe he is doing a good job.

I ask for you to please vote for Mark Kujala in the November election so he may continue to represent our interests with the County Commission.

Rick Newton
Warrenton

4H plans Super Saturday, invites all

Clatsop County young people ages 9 to 19 are invited to a free Super Saturday workshop from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, April 9, at the

Clatsop County Fairgrounds.

Super Saturday activities include classes in shotgun, rifle, archery, a search-and-rescue dog demonstration, swine education, an introduction to small animal care, hiking, paper bead jewelry, egg education, Finnish art, robotics, and science.

Children ages 5 to 8 are invited for games, storytime, and small animal encounters.

Admission is free with the donation of nonperishable food items for the Clatsop County Food Bank. Lunch is available for \$5 (sign up before arrival) or bring your own lunch.

Registration is required by April 4 at signup.com/go/faXnYBb or by calling OSU Extension at 503-325-8573.

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