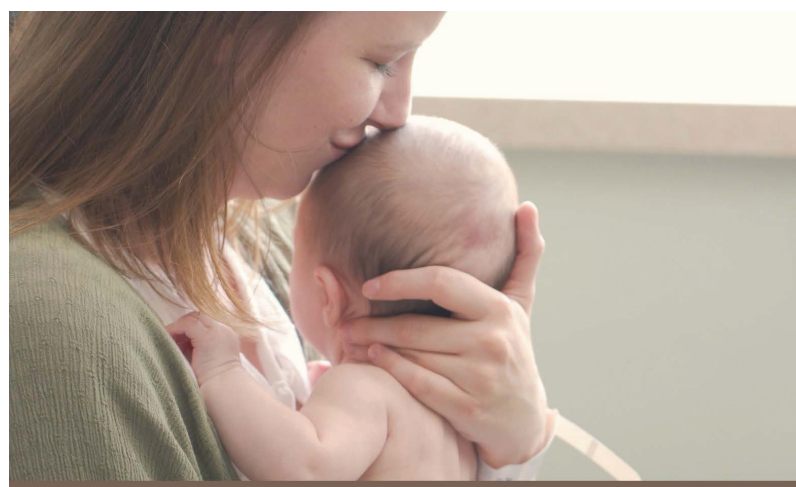


## New museum sign



Warrenton Heritage Museum founder Diane Collier shows off the new welcome banner donated by City Commissioner Rick Newton. The museum is across from City Hall at 228 S. Main Ave.



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## Sewer: Many years later, project goes out to bid

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Stelzig, Warrenton's Public Works director.

"The construction of this low-pressure sewer system is the last step in a five-step process," Stelzig said.

The first step was to work with the Department of Environmental Quality to determine who would own and maintain the system. The second step was to select a system capable of withstanding the demands of a municipality.

The third step was to prepare a handbook and add low-pressure systems to city codes. The fourth step was to design the neighborhood's low-pressure sewer system.

"The fifth step is to bid and construct the system," he said. "The construction project is currently out to bid."

Engineers estimate the construction will cost \$383,000, an amount included in this year's budget.

One of the reasons the neighborhood never received sewer service is that the normal gravity sewer system won't work well there.

There are four other areas stuck with the same problem:

- A residential area south of Fort Stevens and Camp Ki-



**Above:** Collin Stelzig, Warrenton Public Works director.

**Right:** Potholes fill with water on North Main Avenue.

Photos by Cindy Yingst



wanilong, generally including DeLaura Beach Lane, Oak Avenue, Pine Drive, Pine Court, Southwest 14th Street, and Southwest 14th Place.

- Properties off Galena Avenue near the Skipanon River.

- An area south of the high school on South Main Avenue.

- Properties off Southeast Jetty Avenue and Highway 101 Business, near TJ's Auto.

Prior to 2019, low-pressure systems weren't allowed in Warrenton.

"Over a period of time, the

city worked with DEQ on a handful of issues," Stelzig said. "... We then worked with the commission on their approval to allow these systems on a case-by-case scenario."

The project will allow properties with septic systems along Northwest Seventh and at least one on North Main to connect to the city's sewer system. It may also allow some currently vacant lots to be developed that would otherwise be very difficult to develop.

Bids to construct the project are due at noon April 13. Once the lowest qualified bidder is selected, the company has 90 days to get the job done.

A separate project to improve and widen the road will take place after the sewer project; it's expected to start by spring 2023.

"Residents on those roads will finally be made whole after decades of complaints," Mayor Balensifer said. "... It also means that folks who have been waiting patiently for over a decade to develop their property can do so now that there is sewer."

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