



# The Columbia Press

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## City considers raising business license fees

*The Columbia Press*

Businesses likely will pay more for operating in the city of Warrenton this year.

During a discussion at Tuesday's city commission meeting, City Manager Linda Engbretson asked for an increase in the business license fee, an annual tax charged for running a business in town. Most other cities in the county and state also charge a business license fee.

The base charge is \$60 per business, plus \$5 per employee.

In the past, the money was used to fund events, such as the Fourth of July parade, and promotions, such as radio advertising, that encouraged tourists and others to spend money in town and improve the city's economic vitality. The ordinance was changed two years ago to allow the purchase of public safety equipment.

But the fee hasn't kept up with inflation, and a larger percentage has gone toward staff time spent processing the licenses. The last time the business license fee was raised was in 2007, when it went from \$50 to \$60.

Engbretson proposed raising the base fee to \$65 or even \$75 and perhaps also raising the per-employee fee.

The tax doesn't represent a large part of the city's general fund budget, approximately \$45,000 per year.

Raising the base fee to \$75 would bring in another \$11,000 and every dollar increase in the per-employee fee would raise an additional \$3,700, according to April Clark, the city's finance director.

Seaside and Cannon Beach both charge a base fee of \$75; Astoria

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## Construction kicks off on low-income housing project

**By CINDY YINGST**  
*The Columbia Press*

Work has begun on Trillium House, a project hoped to spur an even larger remedy to the region's housing shortage.

"It feels great," said Stuart Emmons, Trillium's designer and chief proponent. "I was looking for sites for this project a long time ago -- 2019 -- we landed on this really good site."



Emmons

The 42-unit apartment building is going in on 14th Place in the 20-acre Chelsea Gardens planned development formerly known as Spur 104. It is adjacent to Home Depot, off Alternate Highway 101.

A lot of entities came together to make the project work: Northwest

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### Groundbreaking

The public is invited to the groundbreaking for Trillium House at 10:30 a.m. June 7 at the worksite on 14th Place, just off Alternate Highway 101.



**Above:** Construction crews assemble at the site of the Trillium House apartments.



**Left:** The 42-unit project is geared toward low-income people and working families and will include a playground, community garden and community room.

Emmons Design

## Columbia Memorial Hospital announces plans to expand

*The Columbia Press*

Columbia Memorial Hospital announced plans over the weekend to expand the hospital.

A social event to kick off the plans on Saturday brought 275 people together for a Kentucky Derby-themed fundraiser in a tent outside the hospital. More than \$400,000 was raised.

The multi-million dollar expansion, announced at the Diamond Derby, is expected to carry and sustain the medical center for decades to come.

The hospital began its drive to become a regional medical center with construction of the Health and Well-

ness Pavilion, the development of clinics in Warrenton and Seaside, and a partnership with Oregon Health & Science University that included construction of the Knight Cancer Cooperative, chemotherapy services and expanded radiology.

"While the current hospital has been well-maintained, it lacks expandability and is vulnerable to earthquakes, tremors or tsunamis," said Eric Thorsen, the hospital's chief executive officer. "We need a new, resilient health care facility that will endure and help the community thrive for the next 50 years."

He was assisted by Dr. Robert Holland, chair of the board of trustees, in introducing the expansion plans to the attendees. Attendees included gubernatorial candidate Betsy Johnson, Buffalo Bills All-Pro Safety Jordan Poyer, and KOIN-TV anchors Jeff Gianola and Elizabeth Dihm.

While Gianola and Dihm kicked off the event from their anchor desk in Portland, sports anchor Adam Bjarranson served as emcee for the afternoon.

Guests watched the Kentucky Derby live, dressed according to theme, and

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