

IN THE WORKS

Hermiston skate park gets funding

Hermiston's proposed budget for the 2020-21 fiscal year, featured on today's front page, offered up a long list of new projects that the city will be bringing to Hermiston in the coming year.



Jade McDowell
NEWS EDITOR

One of those that I've been asked about recently is a skate park for Hermiston. I reported on plans for that project back in January 2019, but those plans have yet to come to fruition after the city didn't receive an expected grant from state lottery funds for recreation last year.

City Manager Byron Smith reports that this spring the city applied again and this time received the grant for the first phase of its "teen adventure park." The city has set aside \$240,000 in matching funds in its budget for the upcoming year, and has applied for additional grant dollars to add more features in a second phase.

The adventure park is planned for 1.5 acres of space on North First Street, located across the street from Hermiston's police station and fire station. The first phase will include a more traditional skate park, while the second phase will add features, such as a BMX bicycle track, climbing features and parkour area.



HH file photo

The city of Hermiston wants to build a skate park across South First Street from the building housing Hermiston Police Department and Umatilla County Fire District.

During his introduction to the budget committee on May 21, speaking of Hermiston's overall economic

outlook, Smith shared news of several upcoming private projects in Hermiston as well, which don't directly

affect the city's budget but will boost property tax revenue in the city.

While the Cimmaron Terrace subdivision off of Theater Lane has been reported on in the past, Smith noted that a different developer purchased 20 lots adjacent to the development and plans to start getting building permits to build homes on those lots.

"Should see some houses going up right there in that area," he said.

He also reminded the budget committee that Amazon Web Services continues to build new developments around Hermiston.

The company has several sites around Umatilla and Morrow counties, including in Boardman, the Port

of Umatilla, south of Umatilla and off Westland Road in Hermiston. Last year, the company negotiated a tax break from Hermiston and Umatilla County for a planned development near Feedville Road in Hermiston. Under the deal, Amazon will give the city, county and other taxing districts \$40 million directly in lieu of property taxes.

As a reminder, getting news tips from readers is an important part of making this new In the Works column work, so if you know of something new coming to Hermiston, Umatilla, Stanfield, Echo, Irrigon or Boardman, send that information my way at editor@hermistonherald.com or 541-564-4536.

Maxwell Market to open in Hermiston

By JADE MCDOWELL
NEWS EDITOR

The Maxwell Market will open for its summer season on May 28.

Owner Mitch Myers said Umatilla County entering Phase 1 of reopening means the market can offer features, such as outdoor seating that he was previously uncertain would be allowed. The Maxwell Market being run as a business on private property allows them to operate using the same safety measures people are now seeing in stores and restaurants.

"We've done our due diligence," he said.

Booths and tables will be spaced 6 feet apart, with markers for people to stand on while waiting in line. Vendors will be required to wear masks, hand sanitizer will be available on tables, and everything will be cleaned regularly. Extra space between booths will mean that more booths will be spread around the outside of the open-air pavilion, under individual tents. And no early shoppers



EO file photo

Shoppers pass through the new Maxwell Siding Pavilion during the Maxwell Farmers Market in Hermiston last year. The market will run from 4-8 p.m. each Thursday in 2020 at the Maxwell Pavilion, 145 N. First Place in Hermiston, and will include live music.

will be allowed, in order to give vendors the extra time needed to set up.

The market will run from 4-8 p.m. each Thursday at the Maxwell Pavilion, 145 N. First Place in Hermiston, and will include live music.

Myers said the market will add more booths outside the

main pavilion as the season goes on, but farmers selling produce were given priority for spaces initially available.

"A crafter doesn't have a perishable crop," he said. "When strawberries come off the vine, strawberries have got to be sold."

He said he is excited to

offer the market to people who have been cooped up indoors for months, but acknowledged that some people, particularly those in high-risk categories, may still feel it is too risky.

"That's a decision people have to make for themselves," he said. "We'll do our part to keep things safe."

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