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Astoria hotel will get ground-floor improvements

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 BY: DJC Staff

A historic hotel in downtown Astoria will receive several building upgrades thanks to its new owners, according to the Coast River Business Journal.

The John Jacob Astor Hotel was purchased last month by Paul Caruana and Brian Faherty, and they plan to make improvements to the building's street-level retail space, which has gone unused for years. Caruana is the owner of development company Caruana Inc. and Faherty is the owner of Schoolhouse Electric Co., a Portland company that specializes in period light fixtures.

The developers would also like to renovate the building's ornate lobby and second-floor ballroom for special event use, an effort that could cost \$3 million. Other work will include removing trash, weatherproofing the building's exterior, fixing leaks and re-glazing the windows. The hotel currently operates as low-income housing.

The developers own several buildings in Astoria, including the Norblad Building, Shark Rock Center and the Commodore Hotel, all of which have planned renovations.



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