

Homelessness task force gets view of housing options

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Members of the Mid-Wilamette Homeless Initiative task force got a look at some innovative housing options for the area's unsheltered residents at a meeting Monday, Sept. 19.

Lane County Commissioner Pat Farr presented a slideshow and informational talk on some of the ways Lane County and partner cities Eugene and Springfield are tackling the issue.

At the core of Farr's presentation was Operation 365, a program designed to house one homeless veteran for every day of the year in 2015. Operation 365 met and exceeded its goal by housing 404 veterans last year.

"We undertook this program with the purpose of housing veterans, but I want to emphasize that you could

substitute any subset of the homeless population with a similar program," Farr said.

The campaign began by reaching out to all available stakeholders, with an emphasis on talking with landlords.

"We started by hosting a fundraiser and large portion of that money went into a landlord confidence program that could cover the costs of damages and unpaid bills," he said. "The landlords' primary concern was (maintaining) the condition of their apartments and making sure rent would be paid. We did a lot of explaining as to why they should feel safe and comfortable housing veterans."

Organizers of the campaign also began taking stock of existing housing options and where innovative communities could be established. Building more permanent af-

fordable housing, upgrading existing structures, permitting alternative housing and providing temporary shelters and camping spaces were all explored.

"One of the things we discovered was that there was lots of housing providers, but there wasn't much communication. I think one of the biggest benefits was sitting people down with others they had never met and letting them discover how to work together," Farr said.

By the end of the year, Operation 365 succeeded in setting up semi-mobile campsites, renovating former single-family student housing options, and establishing Opportunity Village, a site with small single-resident dwellings without plumbing or electric in the units, among other options.

For the most part, the new communities feature small dwellings of less than 300 square feet and communal areas for meal preparation and showering. Costs were also exceptionally low for some options. The price tag for a conestoga hut was \$1,250 while wood-built structure in Opportunity Village was \$2,000.

A new site, Emerald Village is coming in the near future. Emerald Village homes will be fully equipped with plumbing and electricity at the cost of about \$25,000 per unit. Residents will pay rent between \$280 and \$380 per month depending on the size of their home and about half of each payment will go into an equity account that residents can take with them when they find other housing options.

"They don't get to keep the house or the land, but the money they save can be used for a down payment or security deposit," Farr said. Farr said the City of Eu-



Submitted
A few of the housing units inside Eugene's Opportunity Village, a permanent facility for some of the area's homeless residents.

gene contracts with nonprofits that run the sites and each one has a board that reviews applications for residency.

"For the most part, the communities have been self-policing," Farr added.

Having made a dent in the population of homeless veterans, some of the same col-

laborators are now on a path to shelter other subsets of the homeless population. In May 2017, Oaks at 14th will open. The entire 120-unit apartment complex will be made available to people recently released from prisons and parole officers will be housed in the complex.

public notices

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

On 8th day of November, 2016, at 10:00 AM, at the main entrance of the Marion Co. Courthouse, in Salem, OR, I will sell the following real property: 1266 Arlington Avenue, Woodburn, in the case of U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR STRUCTURED ASSET SECURITIES CORPORATION MORTGAGE PASS THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-BC4, Plaintiff, vs. JESUS RUIZ, CAROLINA SANCHEZRUIZ, STATE OF OREGON, HERITAGE PARK MAINTENANCE ASSOCIATION, INC., STATE OF OREGON, EMPLOYMENT

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10/7, 10/14, 10/21, 10/28

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9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 10/14

puzzle answers

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