

Club house open to neighborhood members



Photo by Patrick Sullivan

If you live in the West University neighborhood, this house is your house. Pat Farrell, the neighborhood group director, welcomes anyone who lives in the designated area to come in and enjoy the house. Members are free to use all facilities, including the brick barbecue pit in the backyard.

By PATRICK SULLIVAN
Of the Emerald

Whether they know it or not, students living west of campus are members of an exclusive club called the West University Neighbors (WUN). Unfortunately, not many students use their membership, which means they miss out on free use of a spacious one-story house, says Pat Farrell, coordinator for WUN.

The house, at 1458 Ferry St., has a large living room, roomy kitchen, garage-type work area and a brick barbecue pit in the backyard.

Those facilities are open to all WUN members, anyone living inside the borders of Willamette and Kincaid Streets on the east and west, and 11th and 18th Avenues on the north and south.

"The only limitation on activities is the size of the center," Farrell says. "We accommodate 30 to 35 people here at the same time, but after that it gets a little crowded."

The light blue house can be used for group dinners, discussion groups, art shows, day care and small classes, she says. Even tupperware parties have not been ruled out.

"There are probably 7,000 people in our neighborhood now and 97 percent of them are in rented units. Obviously it's a very transient neighborhood, and that makes my job more difficult," says Farrell.

"Neighborhood groups can develop a community consciousness for their area. We can make an impact here, renters could organize through the center and help themselves."

WUN is one of 18 neighborhood groups chartered by the City of Eugene and supported by Community Development Block Funds.

Since WUN was chartered in 1974, funds have been used to hire Farrell, remodel the neighborhood center, plant more than 1,000 trees and begin work on a new park for the area.

The WUN center opened last October after \$14,000 worth of remodeling, a project to which neighbors donated much work. Hot coffee is now on tap weekday mornings and Farrell is in her office at the center from 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.

All it takes to have a new tree planted in your yard is a phone call to Farrell and city personnel will plant and maintain the tree.

Providing a new park for the neighborhood is a longer process. WUN will be using \$60,000 of Community Development funds to plan and install a park between Patterson and Hilyard Streets on 14th Avenue.

The site has been cleared and a park planning committee is screening architectural firms for the park. The Eugene Housing and Community Conservation Department will make the final choice.

The planning committee has

been asking what WUN members would like to have in their park. "Basketball courts, picnic facilities and, of course, swings are all possibilities," says Farrell.

Back at the house, WUN members can learn gourmet cooking from the author of "Dining With William Shakespeare." The classes, taught by Madge Lorwin, are scheduled for March and April, and cost \$15 per cook.

Farrell recently began a pair of new programs at the center. BRING will be picking up recyclable bottles and cans at the center every third Saturday of the month. Farrell is also scheduling speak-

ers on neighborhood safety.

Besides the center's social service and information functions, it is the office of concerned neighbors working to protect the area.

WUN committee members also meet with the Eugene Planning Commission in an advisory role. "They let us know when things come up that will affect our neighborhood and they listen to our ideas," says Farrell.

WUN planning committee members are now hoping they can help shape Sacred Heart Hospital's expansion plans to the benefit of their neighborhood, she says.

World at a glance

From Associated Press Reports

House scraps B-1 bomber

WASHINGTON — The House reversed itself and gave final congressional approval Wednesday to a request by Pres. Carter to stop construction of the last two prototypes of the B-1 strategic bomber.

The House voted 234-182 to go along with the Senate in scrapping the B-1 project.

Atlanta studies black bias

ATLANTA — Several members of the Atlanta police department were sweating it out Wednesday while Mayor Maynard Jackson studied an investigators' findings that officially-sanctioned cheating had favored blacks for promotions.

Jackson, who took office in 1974, is the city's first black mayor. The report says that Public Safety Commissioner Reginald Eaves, who also is black, condoned the cheating.

Senate casts first treaty vote

WASHINGTON — The Senate conducted its first vote on the Panama Canal treaties Wednesday, rejecting a parliamentary move by treaty foes aimed at torpedoing the twin pacts.

The Senate rejected by a 67-30 vote an effort by treaty opponents to first take up the pact that would turn over control of the canal to Panama instead of taking up the neutrality treaty first, as Senate leaders wanted.

ASUO hires legislative aide

By CAROLYN BEAVER
Of the Emerald

Even though this isn't a legislative year, the ASUO is gearing up for next year's session and has recently hired Susan Berry, a first year law student, as a legislative researcher.

Berry, who did administrative lobbying in front of executive boards and research for a Connecticut law firm last summer, is investigating several issues.

At the suggestion of the Oregon Student Lobby, Berry is researching a "reciprocity and resource sharing" program between Oregon and Washington schools that would place tuition at in-state levels for Oregon students at Washington schools and vice-versa.

Some of the anticipated areas of research for the proposal include potential out-of-state tuition losses, which Berry says could run as high as \$1 million, potential student participation, unduplicated graduate programs and eligibility for financial aid programs. Berry says eventually the decision would come to the state

legislatures.

Since "increased access to the University is an ASUO goal," Berry says she is looking into extending financial aid benefits to



Susan Berry:
ASUO researcher

part-time students. She continues that many part-timers are "non-traditional students," such as

mothers with families that have other responsibilities besides school.

Many times the financial aid office assumes if a student is part-time, he or she is working and doesn't need the additional money a full-time student would, says Berry. It "really isn't fair," as it "precludes community involvement" or other non-paid activities, she says.

The policy makes "part-time students second-class students," Berry says. The University's Status of Women Committee is also researching the issue and has made a presentation to University Pres. William Boyd.

Berry says the ASUO will wait for Boyd's opinion to see if corrections can be made within the University's financial aid office. If not, legislative action will be the "last recourse."

Tuition prices and increases are always heavily debated, and Berry is now investigating whether the tuition rate now is comparable to the middle income level. She plans to look at tuition and middle income levels from several years back.

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