

City asks for facelift financing

By LORRAINE NELSON
Of the Emerald

Eugeneans, like the residents of any other city, have witnessed the deterioration of neighborhoods and the demolition of crumbling old buildings. Over the past four years the faces of many neighborhoods have taken on new wrinkles, but not all of those wrinkles have been detrimental.

Nearly \$4 million in federal grants has been poured into revitalizing the more decayed areas of the city (since 1975), and now, after Thursday's public hearing before the Community Development Committee, a proposal for spending an additional \$1.2 million during the 1979-80 fiscal year is on its way to the City Council.

The council will hold a public hearing Feb. 26 and then forward its recommendation on how the money should be spent to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for consideration.

The Whiteaker neighborhood would receive the largest share of the funds with an allocation of \$344,000. Whiteaker's funds, in conjunction with \$55,000 requested for the West University area, comprise 70 percent of available Eugene Community Development Block Grant funds.

The projected \$1.2 million in CDC funds are available to the city from HUD under the direction of the 1974 Community Development Act. They are to be used primarily to develop urban communities for low- and mid-income people.

In the past, the funds have been used for housing rehabilitation loans, community centers, bike paths, traffic studies, health and social service workers and park sites.

Neighborhoods are pinpointed as target areas for improvement in three-year cycles. The Westside neighborhood has completed its three-year improvement cycle and the Whiteaker neighborhood is moving into its last year of the cycle. The next area to receive priority attention beginning in fiscal year 1979-80 is the West University area.

The West University neighborhood is a prime target for CDC money because it has the highest density and lowest average income per household in the city.

The area has received funding in the past for such things as the neighborhood center on Ferry St. and the acquisition of a park site on 14th Avenue between Hilyard and Patterson Streets.

The West University Neighborhood, bounded by 19th Avenue and Franklin Street and Kincaid and Willamette Streets, is asking for \$17,000 to complete the park project; \$5,000 for a crime prevention program; \$11,500 for a pedestrian-scale lighting project; \$14,000 for a neighborhood outreach program, and \$7,500 for a house-moving loan program.

The Whiteaker Neighborhood, bounded by 7th Avenue and the Willamette River between Coburg Rd. and Chambers Street, is requesting funds for such projects as control of economic development in acquisition of land, parking improvements, expansion of childcare services, a housing cooperative project and a revolving loan fund.

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