

West neighborhood to vote on plan

By **KENT KULLBY**
Of the Emerald

The West University Neighborhood is ready to approve a new urban planning proposal intended to protect the area's residential character from encroaching business development.

The West University Refinement Plan — four years in the making — will be voted on by neighborhood residents Thursday and passed on to the Eugene Planning Commission.

Residents of the South University Area Neighborhood will vote on the plan at a meeting May 20.

The plan would affect land-use policies between Willamette Street, across the University to Agate Street and between Franklin Boulevard to

20th Avenue.

The area is Eugene's most crowded neighborhood, housing most of the University's 16,500 students, many of Sacred Heart Hospital's 1,800 workers, and 6,500 of the city's low-income residents.

Controversial parts of the plan include proposed zoning changes that would reduce the amount of non-residential land use permitted.

The plan would not allow new business development, such as professional offices, medical clinics or parking garages, in the area bordered by High and Hilyard streets and 14th and 19th avenues.

Sacred Heart Hospital and local medical clinics object to the plan, contending that the medical service in-

dustry needs more land for expansion.

In a prepared statement to the West University Neighborhood, Sacred Heart Hospital officials say the city should not discourage the industry's growth because it is vital for improving the county's depressed economy.

Representing the Lane County Medical Society, physician Bert Hoeflich says good health-care planning demands that clinics and hospitals be located near one another so they can use each other's facilities.

The zoning proposals in the plan would not allow concentrated growth of the industry within the neighborhood, he says.

Instead, the plan designates the area from High Street to Patterson Street as primarily residential.

The plan suggests excluding automobile traffic from some streets in the area to allow more room for pedestrians, bicyclists and open spaces. The plan would direct the city to encourage preservation and renovation of older homes in the area. The 1977 Neighborhood Analysis reported that 59 percent of the buildings there were sub-standard.

The West University Neighborhood meeting Thursday will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Central Presbyterian Church, 1475 Ferry St.

When approved by the neighborhoods, the plan will go to the Eugene Planning Commission for another public hearing. The plan then will go to the city council for more hearings and final adoption.

Horton, Burks decry law department cuts

By **CAROL MORTON**
Of the Emerald

Lane County District Attorney Pat Horton told the county budget committee Tuesday that proposed cuts in his budget are "desperate and unacceptable."

Both Horton and Lane County Sheriff Dave Burks said their budgets are evaluated and calculated differently than most other county departments.

The law enforcement and judicial budget cuts are part of a plan to reduce spending by \$3.48 million to balance the county budget.

Burks cited statistics indicating that major crimes are increasing in Lane County. To provide the same services next year, the county would have to add money to the sheriff's department, he said.

"Crime rates cannot be controlled," Burks said. "The critical areas of the criminal work load have increased and will be higher during the summer."

County general administrator George Morgan says the key question is whether enough resources have been allocated for the operations division. The operations division — the division in the sheriff's budget most severely hit — supports general police patrols in unincorporated areas.

Administrative court services in the sheriff's budget are mandated by state statute, Burks says. As a result, police officers are bearing the weight of the cut.

"That's highly unfair," Burks says.

Horton and Burks contested

the process by which Morgan and the budget staff recommended department budget cuts.

As elected officials, Horton and Burks have the authority "to deal with the budget the way the departments see fit, and neither wants to relinquish that duty," Horton said.

Although budget recommendations were sent to each department for responses, Morgan said he did not receive a response from Horton. Instead, Horton presented his alternatives to Morgan and the budget committee at the hearing Tuesday night.

Horton's alternative list was within the dollar amount set by Morgan — cuts totaling \$422,000.

In Horton's alternative budget, proposed cuts focus on the district court division. The district court is the revenue-generating part of the court system, Horton said.

Horton said he realizes the county is in financial trouble and his department has an obligation to help reduce costs and minimize revenue losses to the county. However, reports indicate major and violent crime is rising in the county, and that is his highest priority, he said.

Burks said his cuts in patrols are based on crime statistics in different parts of the county. More neighborhood patrols mean less people overstepping their bounds, Burks said.

County jails also are funded through Burks' budget.

The budget committee, Burks and Horton will discuss budget differences at a future budget workshop.



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