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# Too few take advantage of low income energy aid

An uncommon concern has officials at Eugene's Low Income Energy Assistance Program worried. After securing an extra \$400,000 for low income energy needs, not enough people are applying to use the money.

So far only 600 households have taken advantage of the new money while money for 1,000 to 2,500 people is available in grants ranging from \$110 to \$225 paid directly to the heating or utility company to defray energy costs. The deadline to apply is April 15.

"We are unlikely to get rid of all the money," admits Richie Weinman, office manager of the Low Income Energy Assistance Program. "But we know people need it and are eligible."

Many students already have qualified, Weinman says. Special provisions for students include subtracting tuition from any grants they may receive before looking at income per household using the same heating source is used to determine eligibility.

The average income to qualify is \$800 per month for a family of four. However, Weinman cautions people to call the office if they have any questions because there are complex quirks in the rules that must be applied to each case individually.

Occupants of subsidized housing and those who already have received assistance from the program are not eligible.

Congress appropriated the extra money in response to the hard winter back east, according to Weinman. The Low Income Energy Assistance Program requested the money through the State Community Services Program to serve Lane County residents.

"Hopefully they will let us use (remaining funds) for next year," Weinman says. Congress has not yet set aside any money for the program next year. "But since it's an election year I suspect Congress will embrace the program," he adds.

## Projects may go uncompleted

# Public works income falls

By Marian Green  
Of the Emerald

Local residents will find few bumps or chuckholes in the county-maintained streets, but

uncertain revenue predictions mean that non-mandated public works projects face a rough road before completion, a public works official told the county commissioners Wednesday.

At a public hearing, public works director Donald La Belle said his department's proposed five-year capital improvement program, which is updated each year, totals about \$60 million — a \$13 million drop from the previous year. La Belle said the reduction accounts for no new program additions.

And under the proposed plan, projects totaling \$23 million have been placed under a "Special Funding Category," to be implemented only if money becomes available, he said.

"All the projects are important," he said. "It just means that the money just isn't available."

He said 40 percent of the projects, which include road reconstructions, improvement and bridge replacements, won't be completed on schedule unless U.S. Forest and O&C timber receipts — the public works department's main sources of revenue — are greater than anticipated.

But Commissioner Otto t'Hooft said timber revenues probably will be down this coming fiscal year.

"It's looking like our timber receipts are going to be 40-50 percent (of the county's revenue) rather than the 60 percent we've been budgeting for," t'Hooft said.

La Belle said the sorry revenue outlook during the program's first year means it will concentrate on only "have to have" projects, such as road repairs.

The "need to have" projects — such as road reconstructions and bridge replacements — and the "like to have" proposals — such as road dust controls — will be put aside until the economy turns up, he said.

Continued patching of road or bridge problems gives a "dwindling return" to the county, La Belle said.

In sound economic times, reconstruction is the better alternative because awarding of construction contracts have a "multiplying effect" on the dollars spent in the area.

In an ironic twist, several River Road residents were on hand to protest the county's proposal under the program to widen that road to five lanes. They submitted a petition, signed by 500 River Road residents, opposed to the widening.

"We'd rather you left it alone. We'd rather see the money go to repair chuckholes in the roads," said River Road resident Phil Rose.

The widening would force five local businesses to close and several large, old trees to be cut down, Rose said. The widening is not necessary to ease traffic since turn lanes were constructed recently, he added.

"As far as widening it to five lanes and cutting the trees down, it's not necessary, and the people don't want it," said Wanda Simmons, another River Road resident.

Agreeing that the widening project and other proposals needed additional consideration, the commissioners sent the program back to the Roads Advisory Board and tentatively set May 5 for possible adoption.

# APRIL

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ladies Night: All well drinks just 50¢ from 9-2 and no cover (ladies only)</li> <li>Hump Night: 99¢ buys any drink from 9-1.</li> </ul>				1	2	3
				Results		
4 Garbage Grinders \$1.99	5 HAVE	6 Ladies NITE	7 Hump NITE	8 Guardian	9 Diamond Hill	10
11 Garbage Grinders \$1.99	12 NEAR	13 The Bees Ladies NITE	14 Hump NITE	15 Mr. Nice Guy	16	17
18 Garbage Grinders \$1.99	19 AND	20 Ladies NITE	21 Hump NITE	22 Guardian	23 Maxx	24
25 Garbage Grinders \$1.99	26 AFTER	27 Ladies NITE	28 Hump NITE	29 Bosworth Brothers	30	1



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