

West University is planning curb cuts for handicapped

By Marian Green
Of the Emerald

The West University Neighborhood wants to make traveling through the neighborhood a little easier on the handicapped with curb cuts on high-use routes, says Marshall Landman, WUN grant administrator.

But the neighborhood group wants to make sure the cuts go where the physically disabled — mainly the wheelchair bound — want them most, Landman says. So it is asking the handicapped and students to voice their choices for curb cut locations.

"We're really trying to reach the people who are most affected by it," Landman says.

The 300-acre neighborhood stretches from 19th Avenue on the south, Franklin Boulevard on the north, Willamette Street on the west and the University on the east and includes about 80 blocks, he says.

Grant money totaling \$10,000 from the city-allocated Neighbor-

hood Improvement Program is earmarked for curb cuts, Landman says. At a cost of \$165-\$200 each, the money should fund between 50 and 65 cuts, he adds.

The WUN has talked with various organizations for the disabled, including Handicapped Services and the Independent Living Program to determine where curb cuts should go but would like

where to develop curb cuts, Landman says. They chose High Street, Alder Street, 12th Avenue and the Safeway shopping area as possible target areas, he says.

"We really want to improve the major routes to campus and to bus routes and shopping areas," he says. "But without feedback, it's hard to tell."

To suggest curb cut locations,

WUN seeks the handicapped to learn the routes they use

comments from handicapped individuals in the neighborhood as well, Landman says.

"The major intent is to help handicapped people have easier access to the community," he says. "We want to try and reach those who are handicapped and find out which routes they use."

WUN residents walked the neighborhood to get some idea

call 687-5366 or drop by the WUN Center at 1458 Ferry St.

Suggestions for curb cuts must be made by the middle of May because the bidding process for construction is scheduled for June 1, Landman says.

"Hopefully, when the students come back to school next fall, the cuts will be in place," Landman says.

Whitewater trip on Nepal river shown in slides

A slide show entitled "The First Descent of Nepal's Karnali River" will be presented at 7 p.m. today in the EMU.

Sponsored by the University Outdoor Program, the slide show will be narrated by Bruce Mason, coordinator of the recent 55-day whitewater expedition down the Tibetan Himalayas river.

"Anyone who likes whitewater sports, unique cultures and geography will find this interesting," says Mason.

Two years of planning and research were invested in the expedition, and it was a rare accomplishment for the seven men and two women involved, Mason says. No one before Mason's expedition had traveled that stretch of the Karnali River.

The trip revealed previously unknown and surprising facts about the area, Mason says. Limited and often incorrect information about the Karnali had been available prior to their excursion, he says.

The Outdoor Program provides opportunities for less extensive, local rafting excursions. On Tuesday, May 4, and Thursday, May 6, the Outdoor program is holding meetings at 7 p.m. to provide safety tips and information about whitewater sports.

For details about these and other events, call the Outdoor Program at 686-4365.

University museum offers rafting trips

Two spring rafting trips are being offered by the University's natural history museum in conjunction with the Eugene firm Wild Water Adventures to raise money to keep the museum open next year.

The trips through the canyon of the Lower Owyhee River in Eastern Oregon are set May 15-19 and May 29-June 2. The cost is \$500 per person, with half the money going to the museum as a tax-deductible contribution.

The museum, which faces a proposed June 30 closure due to recent University budget cuts, is trying to raise \$34,000 to keep itself open and to continue the development of new exhibits and projects.

About \$12,000 has been raised so far, and the museum hopes the rafting trips will bring in \$5,000. The amount raised will be doubled thanks to a matching grant from an anonymous donor.

No more than 10 people will be allowed on each trip. The \$500 cost covers food and expenses, but each participant must bring a sleeping bag and a tent. Experienced leaders will guide the trips.

Each trip will start in Rome, Ore. near the Lower Owyhee, which is one of the Northwest's most remote runs and is known for its incredible geological formations.

Reservations and money for the trip must be in to the museum by April 30. Checks should be made out to the University Foundation, earmarked for the natural history museum. For more information about the trips, call the museum at 686-3024.



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