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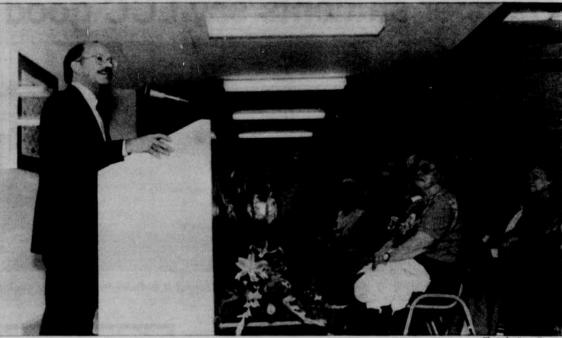


Photo by Sean Poston

U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-Ore., says "You don't get older; you only get better," at the rededication ceremony of the Celeste Campbell Senior Center, which received a \$350,000 expansion.

## Senior center gets new facilities

By June Russell Emerald Reporter

Community supporters of the Celeste Campbell Senior Center cut the ceremonial ribbon at the rededication of the facility Tuesday afternoon to celebrate the first major expansion and renovation of the center in 24 years.

"This building has seen a new generation of seniors, and with this renovation it will see even more," U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-Ore., said in the celebration's opening remarks.

"As the saying goes, you don't get older; you only get better. And this senior center is the same way," he said.

The 2,238 square-foot addition and renovation includes two new classrooms, a pantry and storage area, new reception and office areas, accessible rest rooms and a larger main hall.

But the expansion is really only the tip of the iceberg, said center director Rita Dravich. Although the additional space will help ease congestion and space limitations, she said the expansion will only meet minimum requirements.

"This will barely meet current needs." Dravich said. "The place is really full every day. We've had to turn groups away because we didn't have the space. This is going to be much better."

Campbell Senior Center. 155 High St., offers a variety of social services, recreation and educational programs, and activities to adults age 55 or older. The center, which is operated by the Eugene Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department, will now be able to expand its present activities and services.

"It's basically going to let us do more of the same activities, but do it more comfortably," Dravich said.

The financing for the \$350.000 project came from a variety of sources, including federal community development block grant funds and private contributions.

Dravich said while all the grants and contributions helped to fund the project, the number of small contributions indicated how seniors feel about the center.

"There were people on a very limited income who gave five or ten dollars toward the project." she said. "It was very important because everybody wanted to feel a part of it.

"People really do feel ownership. This is a different kind of facility." Dravich said.

