

# Council hears plans for new office building

Rutan elected council president, Bowles vice president

By Brian Bloch  
Emerald Reporter

Representatives from both a building firm and U.S. Bank of Oregon told the Eugene City Council Wednesday that they are very interested in working with the city to construct and occupy a large office building in downtown Eugene.

A representative of the Seattle firm Lorig and Associates said his company is ready to proceed with construction plans for an 80,000 to 100,000 square-foot office building on the corner of Eighth Ave. and Willamette St., if its construction proposal is approved by the city.

He also said his company is open to ideas for a public plaza or some type of parking structure on the remaining portion

of the development site between Willamette and Olive Streets.

Lorig's proposal, submitted Jan. 3, is being reviewed by a citizen committee that will release its recommendations to the council and the Eugene Downtown Commission Jan. 14.

If the proposal passes the initial review process, the downtown commission will then hold a public hearing Jan. 29, followed by a city council public hearing Feb. 11.

Based on public input and design progress, the city council is scheduled to take action on the project Feb. 13. If the project goes according to the city's initial time line, groundbreaking would take place in July, 1992 and the building would be occupied by July,

1993. A representative of U.S. Bank told the council his company is committed to making a long-term presence in downtown Eugene by occupying 40,000 square feet of the proposed building.

The representative said U.S. Bank would vacate its existing location in downtown in favor of a more centralized location. In addition, he said the proposed building would provide needed office space for major business expansion in downtown Eugene.

"This is certainly a statement about the support for downtown Eugene," city councilor Debra Ehrman said.

In other business, the council voted unanimously to appoint councilor Roger Rutan to council president and councilor Shawn Bowles to vice presi-



Photo by Eric Evans

**If the Eugene City Council approves, this parking lot at Eighth Avenue and Willamette Street could become the newest downtown office building.**

dent. Newly elected councilor Randy MacDonald, who is filling the Ward 1 position for retiring councilor Emily Schue, said he

will have a tough job replacing the former councilor.

Schue stepped down this year after twelve years on the Eugene City Council.



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breakfast programs, and two other federal child nutrition programs — the Child and Adult Care Food Program and the Summer Food Service Program — are underused.

"The breakfast program is federally funded, so it doesn't cost the schools anything to participate," McCoid said. "But few of the schools are running the program. And children are not going to learn if they're going to school hungry."

The task force also recommended that the state be required to appropriate \$4.95 million to the Health Division to support the Special Supplemental Program for Women, Infants and Children. This appropriation, McCoid said, would allow all at-risk children through two years of age to participate in the WIC program. Currently, the funding shortages allow only 50 percent of those eligible to participate.

Caroline Frengle, executive director of Food for Lane County, said the task force recommendations are very conservative in asking for WIC funding for only the first 24 months of the child's life.

"The WIC program is written to be a five year program," Frengle said. "I think the task force thought they would be conservative and just do it during the first two years. And proper nutrition for the first two years is so important... I think it's criminal that most schools don't offer the breakfast program."

The proceeds of the recommended one cent tax on carbonated beverages produced within the state are estimated at \$6 to \$8 million. The revenue would be distributed to groups in the state dealing directly with hunger relief.

"The thought was to tax something not nutritionally valuable and turn it into something positive," said Rachel Little, executive director of Oregon Food Bank and a task force member. "The money has to come from somewhere. I know the soda pop industry