

Oregon Daily Emerald



Ducks get new offensive options Page 5

Tuesday, January 13, 2004

SINCE 1900 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON EUGENE, OREGON

Volume 105, Issue 77

Council to hear rezoning proposal

The recommended zonal change for East Campus would allow the University to use and develop the land

By Nika Carlson
News Reporter

After nearly two years of contentious negotiations and unprecedented input from neighborhood residents, the East Campus area is on its way to a long-term change in character.

The Eugene Planning Commission voted unanimously Monday to recommend changes to the city's East Campus area policy to the Eugene City Council. The decision paves the way for increased development on University lands in the East Campus area.

If approved by the city council, zoning in much of the approximately 12-block area will be changed from residential to government and education, allowing for student housing and other University services to be built in the now mostly residential area.

A transition of high-density residential and institutional buildings followed by a buffer of residential housing will separate the area from the surrounding Fairmount neighborhood.

"It was clear that it was time to get in a place so we could use those lands for expansion," said Jan Oliver, University associate vice president of Institutional Affairs. The University purchased the lands, located east of Agate Street and south of East 15th Avenue, nearly 40 years ago with the intention of developing them, she said.

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Downtown debate



About 50 people protested on Monday about an ordinance that requires groups in the downtown area to have permits

By Nika Carlson
News Reporter

On Christmas Eve, a group of 85 carolers marched through downtown Eugene, braving not only the driving rain but the threat of fines and jail time for gathering in a group of more than 25.

Monday evening they gathered again in a group of nearly 50 before the Eugene City Council's meeting to protest the recently passed city ordinance that can punish them.

Eugene Ordinance No. 20303, passed Nov. 24, requires groups of more than 25 to obtain a permit before assembling in the downtown core, among other restrictions it puts on downtown activities.

The punishment for not following the law is a fine of \$500 for an unplanned gathering and up to \$1,000 and one year of jail time for intentionally congregating.

"We the people don't feel we need a permit to exercise our constitutional right to assemble," said Michael Carrigan, one of the organizers of the ad hoc coalition of protesters.

The provision requires groups to pay a fee to obtain a permit through the nonprofit group Downtown Eugene Inc., an organization of downtown business owners and property owners in the downtown activity zone, the 35

blocks located in the area between Sixth Avenue and 11th Avenue and running from Lincoln Street to High Street.

The provision existed in a previous ordinance adopted about 10 years ago, but in November the area it applied to was expanded by five blocks from Chamelton to Lincoln streets.

City Manager Dennis Taylor said the city attorney and the police chief were working to simplify the permitting process and limit it to commercial activities. He expects them to have results to bring before the Council in several weeks.

Nine people from the crowd of more than 70 spoke against the ordinance during the meeting's public forum, expressing shock and

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Before Monday evening's protest in front of Eugene City Hall, KEZI's Andrea Ash speaks with several protesters (left to right): attorney Brian Michaels, University alumna Zachary Vishanoff, Web designer Brooke Robertshaw and local activist Michael Carrigan.

Tim Bobosky
Photographer



Danielle Hickey Photo Editor

The new Moss Street Children's Center, located at East 17th Avenue and Moss Street, is still under construction but opened five classrooms Jan. 5.

Child-care center nears completion

Only five classrooms are open now, but the \$3 million center will serve 120 children in eight rooms

By Chelsea Duncan
News Reporter

The hallways are unheated, and two of the playgrounds are not yet built, but fresh finger-paintings already decorate the classroom walls of the newly opened Moss Street Children's Center.

The new center, a culmination of the University Child Care and Development

Center's programs, opened five of its classrooms Jan. 5 after about two years of planning and development, CCDC Child Care Coordinator Dennis Reynolds said.

"It's just cool," he said. "It's beautiful, and it works."

The center provides child care services mainly to University students, as well as some faculty, staff and community members.

Reynolds said he has been dreaming of a center like this since he submitted his first proposal to the University in 1988.

"A generation or two of kids later, we

got a new building," he said.

Construction at the center is expected to be completed in February, and more programs will be added in the summer. The nearly \$3 million building, which was funded by student building fees, will eventually operate eight classrooms and accommodate about 120 children, Reynolds said.

He said the center brings together child-care programs that were located in the EMU with programs based in three facilities located on Moss Street, which

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