

# City plans for more downtown appeal

**Christena Brooks**  
Special to the Appeal Tribune

You run in to Mt. Angel to pick up a few things at Bochsler True Value Hardware. On the way to your car, you notice the Glockenspiel is playing. The sun is shining, so you walk down the street to watch the hand-carved figures do their clockwork routine.

Below the song and dance, the restaurant looks so quaint that you go in for a fondue. And before driving away, you stop at Mt. Angel Sausage Company and pick up a package of Fire Haus Brats, extra spicy, to take home. This kind of charming small town experience is what city planners hope to replicate more often by updating the city's development code to require downtown businesses to be "pedestrian friendly" when they build or remodel.

Paid for by the state, a two-year-long overhaul of Mt. Angel's development code is nearly halfway done. The \$23,000 Transportation Management Growth grant has funded the hiring of Angelo Planning, of Portland, to, among other things, modify, harmonize and create new code for the city's downtown and residential areas.

Making Mt. Angel more accessible to people

on foot is only one of many goals, which include blending the city's parking district with its downtown, fixing residential code conflicts and improving connectivity for pedestrians and bicyclists.

"You already have your Bavarian theme, so you don't need a lot of the design elements that a lot of other cities need," Sarah Breakstone, an Angelo senior planner, told city councilors at their March 7 meeting. "I've tried to keep the design standards simple and sort of focus on the things that make the biggest difference."

For downtown, things this could mean requiring new businesses to locate right up to the sidewalk, offer a primary entrance out front, include windows liberally, screen rooftop equipment, and offer weather protection to passersby.

"The proposed code says 75 percent of a building's frontage has to be set to the sidewalk," Breakstone said. "Having a building set way back can be a deterrent to pedestrians."

The code changes are a year away from becoming law in Mt. Angel, as the process won't wrap up until 2017. In the coming months, Breakstone will continue writing new code and bringing it back to the planning commission and city council for



The Glockenspiel restaurant is a Mt. Angel icon. The city is considering changes to its code which may affect downtown businesses and require them to be pedestrian friendly when they build or remodel.

APPEAL TRIBUNE FILE

direction. Adoption will require a council vote.

"There will be multiple iterations I present before there's something I'll present for actual adoption," she said.

As an example of the give-and-take that will occur all year, Breakstone is reconsidering her propos-

al to require awnings at new businesses, after hearing councilor Don Fleck, former fire chief, explain how he instigated their removal because they'd become safety hazards. To City Manager Eileen Stein, even more important than downtown design standards is the

harmonization of the city's code. Some code language is unclear and even contradictory, she said. That's the result of many years of uncoordinated updates, a common problem in cities with no budget for large-scale code overhaul.

"The city's infill re-

quirements, for example, touch two or three areas of the code, and there are conflicting provisions," she said. "It's confusing for applicants when, in one section it says this, but in another section, it says that. This is something we've needed for a very long time."



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As the Pudding River meanders across the Willamette Valley floor, it collects polluted runoff from farms, homes and cities.

## No grant for Pudding River Watershed

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Special to the Appeal Tribune

The Pudding River Basin has been in the spotlight recently as a group of leaders from Silverton, Mt. Angel and the surrounding areas collaborated to seek a chunk of a \$750,000 state grant.

But the local collaboration was too new to convince the Oregon Water Resources Congress to award funds for the study of the water needs of

those who live and work along the 62-mile Pudding River and its tributaries.

"The relatively untested nature of collaborative planning in this basin may not make it a good fit during the pilot phase," read the OWRC report.

"I'm disappointed that we did not receive the grant," said Mt. Angel City Manager Eileen Stein. "We had a great opportunity, and I was hoping we could pull it all together."

## State lauds summer reading successes

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The Oregon State Library honored Mt. Angel Library for its 2015 summer reading program, naming it as one of the state's top five "outstanding projects."

Eighty-two percent of the youth who signed up for the library's summer program achieved their reading goals, as compared with the state average of 33 percent, said Katie Anderson, youth services consultant for the

state library.

Mt. Angel's success rate can be attributed to library staff, which "made changes to the summer reading program to increase adult engagement and encourage families to participate together because parents are a child's first and most influential teacher," she said.

Mt. Angel Library director Carrie Alexandria Caster and youth services librarian Stephanie Laing received the award before the City Council on March 7.



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Mt. Angel Library director Carrie Alexandria Caster and youth services librarian Stephanie Laing received an award before the City Council on March 7 for the library's reading program.

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Once police are notified, they will come to the place of death and assess things. They will also contact EMT to come and certify the time and that a death has occurred. Afterward, the police may phone the nearest funeral home to assist in transportation of the individual. In certain cases, the medical examiner's deputy may also be requested at the scene to determine if an autopsy may be required. In other cases, an autopsy may not be necessary. If family wishes to pursue an autopsy, they should notify the funeral director.

**Is embalming required?**

No. Only in certain circumstances. Embalming is required in cases of communicable disease or prolonged public viewing (6 hours or longer). Most often times the funeral home will utilize mortuary refrigeration, as required after the first 24 hours of death.

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