

# Professionals

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## At Silverton Senior Center

Silverton Area Seniors Executive Director **Dodie Brockamp** reminded us that the annual Christmas Open House Silverton Senior Center is 3 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 21, 115 Westfield St.

"We will have some entertainment and refreshments, and it is open to the public for free," Brockamp said.

New upcoming activities at the Senior Center include line dancing from 3 to 4 p.m. on Mondays, beginning Jan. 8. Cost is \$3 for members and \$5 for nonmembers.

Brockamp also reminds Christmas shoppers that unique gifts can be found at the Silverton Thirtf Shop downtown at 207 High St. It's open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

City Manager **Christy Wurster** noted that the Senior Center will also be the site of the Silverton Holiday Social, 3 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15. The city is renting the center for that event.

The social is an annual gathering of city staff and the city council to celebrate employee service.

"The city presents annual service awards in a social setting," Wurster said, adding that Silverton City Hall will be closed from 3 to 5 p.m. that day to allow employees to attend.

## Free swim

City Councilor **Matt Plummer** said that Silverton residents can enjoy a free swim from 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16 at the municipal pool, 601 Miller St.

The open pool is essentially a "thank you" from the pool operators to the city's voters, who re-upped the levy supporting the pool in last November's election.

"This levy not only allows our citizens for year-round access to the pool but enables the city to take care of other projects related to the pool," Plummer said.

Additionally, **Dennis Downey**, a beloved community member who was heavily involved in the creation of Silverton's swim team and served as a coach for several years, stands to be recognized posthumously. Friends of Dennis Downey proposed a memorial plaque to be placed in his honor at the pool.

## Town Hall

Plummer also issued another reminder that Silverton's annual Town Hall is scheduled for 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 18, in Silverton High School's auditorium, 1456 Pine St.

Wurster said the event will include Mayor **Kyle Palmer's** "State of the City" message, while members of the Silverton City Council and city staff managers will be on hand to discuss various topics and answer questions.

Plummer noted that the Town Hall takes place in lieu of the council's normally scheduled work session, and it gives city residents a chance to ask questions and get a clear look at what's transpiring and motivating decisions within their city government.

## Recognizing soldiers and vets

The American Legion will hold a candlelight vigil, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 19 at Town Square Park.

The purpose is to honor our service men and women. For information, contact is **Paul Zenchenko** from the American Legion at 503-507-3690.



**Matt Plummer** **Rhett Martin**

## Fossil Free Silverton

Plummer also updated us on happenings with the nascent Fossil Free Silverton, a local group that is connected to a larger movement focused on global sustainability.

"With two meetings under our belt, Fossil Free Silverton has created 3 focus groups to better focus our efforts; State, County, City. Each of these groups will be meeting in December with a full meeting coming in January," Plummer said.

Plummer stressed that a primary focus will be to identify candidates at all levels of government who will make fossil-fuel reduction or elimination a priority. Another will be to examine Hood River County's "Energy Plan" and explore the feasibility of using it as a template.

"Fossil Free Silverton has two county commission candidates and a current city council member that are active in this process and are dedicated to the pursuit of utilizing the most sustainable sources available," Plummer said.



**Dodie Brockamp**

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# CTE

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ships, and programs that lead to high-wage, high-demand occupations, especially for historically underserved students.

In addition to the regular CTE Revitalization Grant, a summer supplement was also offered for schools wanting to expand opportunities for students outside of the regular school year.

North Santiam School District, based in Stayton, will receive \$376,286 for its Pathways to Health program.

"Many of our students will move on to careers in health care, and we are excited to create a concrete pathway to a career in this industry," said Andy Gardner, superintendent of the district.

Alan Kirby, principal at Stayton High School, helped author the district's submission. He said the grant money will be used to develop curriculum, hire teachers and buy needed equipment and technology for a new five-year pathway to be implemented next year.

Students who participate will be able to take classes starting in eighth grade that focus on biomedical fields. The district will also offer a summer boot camp to expose students to various career technical programs already in the district, like manufacturing and business programs.

The effects of these programs are notable. Graduation rates for students in Oregon's career technical education programs are 15.5 percent higher than the statewide average.

Salem-Keizer Public Schools will receive \$98,885 in grant money, which will be used for its Roadmap for Success program.

That's not the only technical education money Salem-Keizer will receive. The district stands to receive



Career Technical Education Revitalization Grants will provide programs focused on advanced manufacturing, engineering, agricultural science, aviation, robotics, forestry, home construction/renovation and biomedical/health sciences. STATESMAN JOURNAL FILE

more money than most under Measure 98. Formally called The Oregon State Funding for Dropout Prevention and College Readiness Initiative, the Measure 98 requires the Legislature to appropriate at least \$800 per high school student, per school year, for districts to create or expand college-level educational opportunities, career and technical education programs and drop-out prevention strategies.

Salem-Keizer schools were estimated to receive \$10.2 million when the measure was passed last year.

To see a complete list of recipients, see this story at StatesmanJournal.com. Contact Natalie Pate at npate@StatesmanJournal.com, 503-399-6745, or follow her on Twitter @NataliePate or on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/nataliepatejournalist.

# Plan

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that the conceptual plan did not adequately comply with all the standards of the city's code. He further questioned the status of property's annexation into the city in light of ongoing challenges to Senate Bill 1573, which was passed in 2016 and allows for annexations without voter approval. Municipalities such as Corvallis and Philomath are challenging the constitutionality of that law.

Among the tangible concerns discussed were traffic and pedestrian safety issues, costs of infrastructural development, and the extent to which system development charges will offset those costs.

Councilors acknowledged the annexation status and the acreage's single-family zoning as realities, but they felt the presented plan was not consistent with the city's development vision. The PUD, which affords more mixed use than a traditional standard subdivision, called for 56 lots, ranging in size from 4,002 square feet to 6,327 square feet, and containing 62,006 square feet of open space.

The developer maintained that having the smaller lots could provide more affordable housing, an assertion with which some councilors disagreed.

Councilor Dana Smith examined the proposal, reflecting on the site's annexation and an earlier proposal for apartment buildings there. The site's zoning subsequently changed to single-family residential, and while the trajectory of the area's development appears on track for that, Smith felt the plan didn't harmonize with the city's planning vision.

"I'm going to be voting no here with the suggestion that you...come back to us with something more innovative," Smith said, elaborating on infrastructure preferences, approval conditions and overall connectivity with the rest of Silverton. "We need to be looking at how does this fit into the Silverton development plan 30 years from now...There will be developments around

## What's next

- What:** Next scheduled Silverton City Council meeting
- When:** 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 8
- Where:** Silverton City Council Chambers, 421 S. Water St.
- Phone:** 503-874-2216
- Web:** www.silverton.or.us
- Anticipated agenda items:** Proposed smoking bans downtown and in city parks.

this. These little islands, these little pockets where you go in turn a circle and you go back out, are not creating connectivity – that's not creating community."

Councilor Matt Plummer agreed. "I think as was stated earlier about our council goals, (this development) is another island," he said. "We don't support those, and I don't support this. I'd like to see something different, and the key (word) being 'different.'"

Councilor Laurie Carter stressed that she is agreeable with the PUD concept, especially in the sense of an age 55-plus neighborhood, but this plan did not coincide with her vision of the concept, which includes more pedestrian-friendly access to the amenities on that end of town; several restaurants, Roth's and other retail, including a Dollar General that is currently under construction.

"This (plan) is just not very attractive; this to me is so mundane it doesn't offer anything that would entice the people I would like seeing live there," Carter said.

Councilor Jason Freilinger elaborated on infrastructural concerns, stressing that system development charges "don't come anywhere near paying for (costs)," consequently city residents can incur development costs while a developer benefits.

Future possibilities for the site could include a new conceptual plan or an assessment of the current plan by Oregon Land Use Board of Appeals. [jmuch@StatesmanJournal.com](mailto:jmuch@StatesmanJournal.com) or cell 503-508-8157 or follow at [twitter.com/justinmuch](https://twitter.com/justinmuch)

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