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Clackamas Community College

Oregon City, OR

ELC concerned over plans for Berry Hill Mall

by Jim Titus Editor-in-Chief

Construction of the Berry Hill shopping center at the intersection of Beavercreek Road and the Oregon City Bypass has generated some major concern from the John Inskeep Environmental Learning Center (ELC).

ELC Director Jerry Herrmann is concerned that construction plans for the Berry Hill site do not adequately handle water run-off during periods of heavy rain and may harm fish in Newell Creek. Fish released into the creek from the ELC's fish rearing program use the waterway as a route to the Willamette and also return upstream to spawn.

"Newell Creek has extremely good habitat and is one of the few urban streams that still has a migratory fish run," Herrmann explained.

Initial discussions between ELC members and the Oregon City Council last November concerned options for the discharge of water from the Berry Hill site and future developments in the Newell Creek Basin. Herrmann feels that on-site detention (a method of holding storm water on the site of the development and slowly releasing it to control

flooding) is the best way to handle the drainage problem.

"It became very obvious back in November that if some type of on-site detention for storm water wasn't provided there could be some real impact on the stream and even the college," said Herrmann.

Herrmann went on to explain that the area to the east of the Beavercreek Road entrance of the college is zoned for commercial development. If development does occur in this area without proper drainage, the area of the college containing the ELC, athletic fields, and Clairmont Hall could become flooded during periods of heavy rain. Most of the area now occupied by the college was once a wetland.

A letter to the Oregon City planning director from Department of Fish and Wildlife biologist Jay Massey dated January 6 seems to support Herrmann's contention, stating that, "the calculated storm water flow from the shopping center, without adequate detention facilities, could create severe problems for the fish ladder and for fish habitat and fish downstream in Newell Creek. Extremely high flows in the creek will cause severe bank erosion, wash away spawning gravel, destroy streamside vegetation, and silt in valuable spawning and rearing areas further downstream."

The letter concludes by stating that, "it is very important that the shopping center provide adequate storm water detention on the site to reduce the peak flows discharged to Newell Creek and protect valuable fish resources downstream."

The developer of the Berry Hillsite, Centers West Realty Inc. of Portland, have been working with the City Council and environmentalists to lessen the impact of the development on its surroundings, but specifics of storm water management (such as acceptable water levels) are still under negotiation.

Herrmann stressed that he is not against the construction of the shopping center, and is in fact trying to work with the developer to achieve the "best of both worlds." Herrmann's goal is to create a standard for development in the Beavercreek Road area to lessen the impact on the environment.

The Oregon City Council is meeting tonight at 8:30 p.m. to adopt changes to the storm water plan.

<image>

Construction continues on Berry Hill Mall despite concerns from the John Inskeep Environmental Learning Center.

Pioneers of Country Music festival breaks even

by Briane C. Dotson News Editor/Managing Editor

The Pioneers of Country Music Festival, held August 19, drew 2,000 people for an afternoon of music at Balsinger Park in Wilsonville.

"The festival was successful in terms of starting something new," said Bev Fulmore, festival coordinator.

Without the corporate sponsors the festival would have lost money; however, with their help the festival broke even.

Corporate sponsors were KATU television and Thriftway Association. Media sponsors for the festival were This Week Magazine, and KWJJ AM and FM.

Three major country and western bands took part in the extravaganza: the O'Kanes, Southern Pacific, and Ricky Skaggs.

"Reviews from the performers gave encouragement to have more country music festivals. The newspapers also gave good reviews of the festival. I'm really pleased," said Fulmore.

It will be decided on Oct. 9 by

the Clackamas Community Foundation Board on whether there will be a Pioneers of Country Music Festival next year.

If there is a festival next year, Fulmore said the foundation would like to have bands from the Northwest play during the intermissions of the major acts. Also there is talk of making the festival an allday event.

If the board decides to have another festival, it will then begin contacting bands to perform at future festival.

The booking agent for the festival was Portland based booking agent Steve Reischman. Reischman has worked for the Portland Zoo-grass Festival, Rippling River Resort, and other music festivals all over the Northwest.

Terri Calamoneri, who's has had experience working for the Mt. Hood Festival of Jazz, handled the logistics. The festival employed 150 volunteers and staff.

Any money that was raised by the festival will be used to equip the South Clackamas Satellite Center in Wilsonville, and to fund traditional foundation projects. David Dickson, assistant to the president, said he is pleased with this first time effort. He

pointed out that it took the Mt. Hood Festival Jazz four years to make any money.

"Despite the fact that we didn't make any money, sponsors are

committed to it... we're enthused about doing it again, and plan someday to sell it out and make a whole bundle of money," said Dickson.



Ricky Skaggs entertained a crowd of 2,000 at the Pioneers of Country Music Festival held in Wilsonville on August 19.

