

FROM PAGE A7

## RULES:

continued from page A7

amend the document before making a recommendation to the City Council for approval.

City Planner Clint Spencer researched similar ordinances in other cities to create the initial language for the proposal, which the Community Enhancement Committee reviewed and revised to its current form, Morgan said.

He said, although the current draft focuses mostly on commercial zones, multi-family residential developments, such as apartment complexes, will be included in the ordinance, whereas single-family homes would not be impacted.

He said developments would be required to landscape 3 percent of the property in the downtown commercial zone and 6 percent in the outlying commercial zone.

Businesses in the downtown zone that cannot install traditional landscaping can satisfy requirements by using other features, such as hanging baskets, fountains, decorative lighting, planter boxes or outdoor seating, according to the draft ordinance.

"There will be some credits for all of these," Morgan said. "Based on the site, it may be impossible to put in additional landscaping. Obviously, there isn't that much space in the downtown for putting

in a lawn."

Morgan said the proposed ordinance would also require landscaping on 3 percent or 10,000 square feet of industrial development property, whichever is smaller.

He said the visual impact of the ordinance on the city will be determined when new development takes place in the city.

"This was all a direction from the (City) Council to the Community Enhancement Committee to

address aesthetics and curb appeal of the community," he said. "The direction that we got was not to make this any kind of retroactive requirement or anything like that, but putting this in place pretty much creates the standpoint of 'Yeah, we may not be able to go back in and get some properties cleaned up with this ordinance, but you've got to start somewhere.' If this is approved, it would likely have a big impact in the long run."

## TOUR

continued from page A7

and metal shops and other career and technical classes with John Day School Board member Mike Cosgrove. At the end of their day, they visited the home students are building through the Columbia Basin Student Homebuilders Program.

During the tour of the student home site, a couple of students were working on the siding and showing Cai'an how they were connecting the wiring, heating and air conditioning systems and generally

finishing the rest of the house.

Cai'an said he thought the project was a great opportunity for students.

"This is really good," he said.

Cai'an also asked Curt Berger, the teacher overseeing the project, a number of questions. Berger explained to Cai'an the students were involved in every step of the project, even some of the elements they are not able to do themselves, such as the roofing and connections of gas pipes, which are done by licensed contractors and work crews.

"They practice on their own, or they are right there

watching as it all happens," he said.

Stanfield junior Nathan Hurty, one of the two Stanfield students working on the project, guided Cai'an through the house and showed him the different rooms and what the students and Berger liked to call the "wow factors" of the house.

Cai'an said he was im-

pressed the house includes all the special amenities it does, from a spot in the living room for an 80-inch television, an RV hook-up on the side of the house, a place for a hot tub on the back deck and exposed wooden beams that line the 17-foot ceilings in the living room.

Cai'an said one thing he liked, in particular, was get-

ting to see not only see how students are building, but also how homes are built in the United States in general. In China, he said, families live in apartments, which are built primarily with concrete and brick. He said he has never seen wood used in a home's construction before.

"We don't have houses

built out of wood where I live," he said.

Cai'an said he will share his experiences with his staff in China so they can learn about having programs like this in a school setting. He said he was impressed by what is happening in Hermiston.

"There are so many career opportunities here," he said.



MAEGAN MURRAY PHOTO

From left, Chinese Principal Dong Cai'an, Stanfield junior Nathan Hurty, Hermiston High School Principal Jocelyn Jones and Hermiston School District Executive Director of Special Programs Jon Mishra look at one of the Columbia Basin Student Homebuilders Program's list of building requirements for students Thursday in Hermiston.



MAEGAN MURRAY PHOTO

Chinese Principal Dong Cai'an and John Day School Board member Mike Cosgrove get a tour of the Columbia Basin Student Homebuilders program's first student-built home from Stanfield Secondary School junior Nathan Hurty last week.

## ANIMALS:

continued from page A7

make a special trip for us, and they're going to take about five to 10 dogs for us," he said. "I'm totally excited. One of the biggest stresses is large breeds that they weren't willing to take in the past, and they're willing to take them now, so it's kind of a game-changer. Sometimes you just run out of room in your shelter, and if they're willing to take them and put them up for adoption in another facility, that's super awesome."

Putnam said OHS uses a van to pick up the animals for free, and he is grateful for the opportunity.

He said pit bulls and dogs that have been determined to be aggressive will not be accepted in the Second Chance Program, but he believes many canines that could not find a new home in Hermiston will ultimately be adopted elsewhere.

"The least-adoptable dogs are large mixed breeds, and they're going to be taking them now, so that's really going to reduce euthanasia rates (at Pet Rescue)," he said.

### COMPLAINTS AGAINST PET RESCUE

Pet Rescue's announced participation in the Second Chance Program comes as Hermiston city officials continue to research com-

plaints against the shelter from several people at a recent City Council meeting.

City Manager Byron Smith said he met with four people after the meeting to obtain further details.

"They provided us with a lot of notes and some people that we could contact to get further information about different things," Smith said. "We're just going to continue to do some research and looking into some of the specific complaints. They have some specific situations where they think abuse has taken place. They have some specific situations where they feel like an animal was euthanized before it should have been. They had a number of contacts of people (and) suggestions of other ways that could be used to advertise the pets for adoption, those kinds of things. They feel like there's not being enough done on that part."

Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan said city officials met with Pet Rescue officials but are still gathering information and are not ready to report to the City Council yet. He anticipated the report will be presented at the Feb. 9 meeting.

Suzanne Phillips, who voiced her concerns to the council earlier this month and later met with city officials, said she has "probably talked to 100 people" who have had bad experiences with Pet Rescue, and she has a long list of recommendations.

"The bottom line is

they are killing animals, killing our pets, in spite of life-saving alternatives," she said. "When they're full, they just kill the animals. They don't ask around to see if anyone can take them."

She said the animals available for adoption should be better advertised, all of the animals should be spayed or neutered, basic comforts should be provided, the shelter should accept more volunteers and animals should be transferred to other shelters instead of being euthanized.

Putnam said Pet Rescue tries to list animals on PetFinder.com and spays and neuters animals as funds allow. He said the shelter created a PayPal account to accept online donations, and 100 percent of the proceeds will be used to spay and neuter animals. Donations can also be made at the shelter, 1844 N.W. Geer Road, Hermiston, between noon and 5 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays. He said the animals are warm and fed, and people can fill out applications for the volunteer program at the shelter.

People also have complained about the adoption and owner surrender prices, the annual rent the shelter pays and the condition of the kennels in the past. Some also reported they were turned down as volunteers, and some animals with microchips had been adopted out from the shelter.

To prevent the micro-

chip problem, Putnam said Pet Rescue recently purchased a new universal microchip scanner that should detect all types

of microchips, unlike a scanner previously used. He recommended people register their animals with microchips, which

often requires additional annual fees, because some dogs with microchips that have been scanned were not registered.

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