

# Yard sales turn unwanted items into bargains

By **JADE MCDOWELL**  
STAFF WRITER

Nowhere is the phrase “one man’s trash is another man’s treasure” more true than at a yard sale.

Each Saturday when the weather is good, bargain hunters comb through tables of items in yards and garages that the owners no longer want, looking for that perfect find at a fraction of its usual price.

Karen Bower found one of those recently.

“I found an antique oak rocking chair that was beautiful, just last week,” she said. “It was \$35 but it should have been a lot more.”

On Saturday she was back at it again, combing through items at a \$2-a-bag sale in Hermiston.

“I just love to go to garage sales. I find great stuff I need,” she said, holding up a plastic grocery bag that included a lightly-used Carhart jacket, desk lamp, wall hangings and a few small electronics. “This is a \$2 bag. Imagine!”

She goes yard sale-ing whenever she can, and said multi-family sales usually have the best finds.

The one she was at Saturday morning was put on by three families and included a wide variety of clothing, furniture and household items.



Yard sale signs are posted at the corner of Seventh Street and Highland Avenue.

STAFF PHOTO BY JADE MCDOWELL

Tammy Wagner, who was handing out grocery bags to customers, said her family had been saving up items for a couple of years.

“We did the \$2 a bag so we could get rid of stuff,” she said.

Several young families were there at about 10:30 a.m. picking through tables of children’s clothing, and Wagner said there had been a steady flow of people all morning. She wasn’t sure if people would be out looking for sales the weekend

before school started, she said, but since it was such nice weather and the smoke had finally cleared it seemed like a good opportunity.

Some sales draw in casual passerby with signs, while others that are held farther out of town might require some advertising on Facebook or in the classifieds to let the serious bargain hunters know that the sale is worth tracking down when they go out that weekend.

Off Edwards Road, an

expansive multi-family sale featured clothing, tools, housewares, books and other items laid out over the yard and inside the barn.

Organizer Jan Hernandan said she tries to have one with a few other families once every other year. The sale was set to run Saturday and Sunday but she said a few people actually showed up Friday to ask if there was any way they could buy things early (they were asked to come back the next day). She said Saturday

morning had been steady, and the camping equipment in particular had been going quickly.

She said usually knows it’s time to put on a yard sale when she is running out of room for new possessions and she has articles of clothing she isn’t wearing anymore because her style has changed. Her husband passed away since her last yard sale, she said, so she was also parting with quite a few of his things.

“It was just time,” she said.

On Division Avenue, a smaller sale of clothing, jewelry and a few larger items such as a guitar were on display. Lola Lopez said she had priced things according to what she would be willing to pay, and most of what she didn’t sell would likely be donated to Goodwill while the bigger-ticket items she would try and sell online. She had a DeWalt drill sitting near the front of the yard and said throwing in a power tool or some fishing equipment can

help wives convince their husbands to stop and take a look at a sale.

She is also a frequent shopper at yard sales herself, and said her favorite thing she ever bought at a yard sale was a small microwave that looked like it belonged in the 1970s.

“It was just the cutest ever microwave,” she said. “It was \$5.”

Jackie Alleman showed up at Lopez’s sale with a couple of kids from her neighborhood and a college student from her church. She said they carpooled from Heppner to hit up as many sales in Hermiston as they could, looking for back-to-school clothes and other deals.

It can be tricky to know what time to go out — some of the best finds get snatched up early in the day, but Alleman said the later in the day you go the more people are usually willing to come down on their prices.

“There’s a whole etiquette to yard sales,” she said.

# East Theater Lane to get paved sooner

By **JADE MCDOWELL**  
STAFF WRITER

Residents of Theater Lane will be happy to hear the gravel portion of East Theater Lane will be paved sooner.

On Monday the Hermiston city council approved a request from city staff to “flip-flop” two items on its streets capital improvement plan.

The plan was for the city to take on no major projects from the plan in fiscal year 2019-2020, then complete a realignment of the three-way intersection of Geer, Harper and Umatilla River roads in 2021 and pave the eastern portion of Theater Lane after.

Assistant city manager Mark Morgan said the city has since changed its philosophy on paying for sidewalks on new projects and decided to only pave travel lanes on Theater Lane, leaving the addition of sidewalks, curbs and gutters to developers who build out there. That cut down the project’s cost from approximately \$1.3 million to about \$600,000.

At the same time, engineers are having a harder time than expected coming up with a re-design for the Geer/Harper intersection, where three roads cross over the railroad behind Home Depot.

“One of the things we have realized when we got

into looking at Geer and Harper is that there are no good solutions there,” Morgan said.

Some solutions would favor everyday vehicles, others would be better for the truck traffic to the nearby Marlette plant. A roundabout would make sense, Morgan said, but members of the public spoke out vehemently against roundabouts last time the city considered them.

Flipping the Theater and Geer/Harper projects would be easier from a cash flow perspective, give engineers more time for design work and have East Theater Lane by the end of 2020.

Councilor John Kirwan said he was opposed to the idea because the portion of Theater Lane that would be paved is beyond where the housing development lies.

“No citizens of the city of Hermiston live past there,” he said.

But councilor Jackie Myers, who lives in the area of the project, said residents still use the road frequently to get to other places. She has asked for years when the city will pave the road. And councilor Doug Smith said his family would use Theater Lane more often if the unpaved portion got paved. Some councilors also pointed out the Hermiston School District owns property along there and hopes to re-try for a bond that could include a new elementary

school on Theater Lane, which would also increase traffic there.

In the end, all councilors but Kirwan voted in favor of the change.

Before Monday’s regular city council meeting, the council discussed sidewalks, housing and other topics during a work session.

Morgan said Hermiston had 46 new single family home permits through the end of July.

“We’re easily on track to pass last year’s 81 residential units,” he said.

He said there is also a plan in the works for a new multi-family housing between Southeast Fifth and Sixth streets that would provide an additional 50 units to Hermiston’s stock of

apartments.

The city continues to work on new ways to encourage housing growth in the area.

It is also turning its attention to sidewalks.

An intern with city engineering firm Anderson Perry has been cataloging the city’s sidewalks and wheelchair ramps all summer, and Morgan displayed a map Monday with sidewalk-less streets in red.

“I was actually pleasantly surprised with our sidewalks,” he said. “We have quite a few sidewalks.”

The city has about \$1.2 million in sidewalk projects it hopes to complete, however, and is applying for funding through the Safe Routes to Schools program.

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Water Station Sponsors: Jill’s Silly Golfers and Family. The Beer and Snacks basket was created by Rita McDougal. The Mulligan basket was provided by American Printing, which also included a gift certificate from Eastern Oregon Mobile Slaughter.

**TEAM PRIZES & DOOR PRIZES**  
Club 24 Express Fitness; Desert Lanes; Ste. Michelle Wine Estates; Hagerman Trucking; Midway Tavern; Ye Olde Pizza Shoppe; Pizza Hut; Neighbor Dudes; Hales Restaurant; Northwest Farm Supply; Randy’s Pro Shop; Norco; Blue Mountain Cabinet Suppliers of Hermiston/Jeff Edmundson; Les Schwab; Smitty’s Ace Hardware and Deanna Plum/Tastefully Simple.

**LUNCHEON**  
Lunch sponsored by Tom Huxoll, owner of Cascade Automotive, and was served by The Knights of Columbus, and Special Olympics coach, Doris Boatright. Hermiston Safeway and 7-Eleven also contributed to the luncheon.