

New housing development in city's future

City manager says projects could add 1,000 residents to Stanfield, where population in 2020 stood at 2,144

BY ANTONIO ARREDONDO
Hermiston Herald

Stanfield is growing. After two other developments already started, the Stanfield City Council at its meeting Tuesday, Aug. 4, approved a third.

Stanfield City Manager Ben Burgener confirmed SGS Contracting Services Inc. is working on a new development on the north end of Stanfield at the intersection of Highway 395 and Canal Road.

The lot will be built across from the Silver Ridge development, another recent housing project Burgener said is nearing completion.

There have been two public hearings discussing the proposed project, with the most recent on Aug. 4. While Burgener said there were not a lot of public comments at the time, it meant the housing development moved on without a hitch. Two weeks from now,



Mackenzie Whaley/Hermiston Herald

The site of a future housing development in Stanfield is a wheat field as of Aug. 4, 2022. While there is no timeline, the project at the intersection of Canal Road and Highway 395 in Stanfield calls for nearly 300 houses.

a private meeting will discuss the proposed housing further.

As it stands now, the SGS development will be 107 houses, with plans for improvements to Canal Road as well as several new streets. Canal road is unpaved and runs through a wheat and corn field.

"They've mentioned paving Canal Road all the way to

Feedville (Road), which would be nice," Burgener said.

An additional hearing is upcoming for a manufactured home complex in the same development. One hundred or so extra homes could be placed next to the area. Burgener said as of right now, plans are for 107 single-family residences and 180 manufactured homes.

While there's still no time-

line on the Canal Road project, it's one of three major projects that have begun over the last 18 months.

After a rezone in July 2021 paved the way for Silver Ridge, the new development on the north side of Stanfield has added more than 58 acres of housing to the area. So far, several homes are built with nearly 40 still to go,



Mackenzie Whaley/Hermiston Herald

The intersection of Canal Road and Highway 395 is the site for another housing development in Stanfield. As of Thursday, Aug. 4, 2022, the intersection sits between a wheat field and a corn field.

Burgener said.

The south side of Stanfield also is seeing new projects. Bumble B Estates has broken ground and plans to add 99 single-family residences. The East Ball Avenue construction is visible when entering the city.

According to the city of Stanfield's website, this trend started in 2020 with the addition of Patriot Heights, a 41-home development also off of 395 on the north side of town. The Turner Addition on Sloan Street is a smaller, eight-house project also underway.

In total, Burgener said the

developments could add as many as 1,000 residents to Stanfield. For a town with a population at 2,144 in the 2020 census, this new wave of houses is a sign of a changing city.

"These developments are going to improve our infrastructure," he said, "It's going to make Stanfield a lot more competitive for businesses."

Most importantly, Burgener said while the town is growing, it will keep that rural hometown charm that many in Eastern Oregon love. And the new developments only show how popular that feeling is becoming.

Big grant means big things for little library

Stanfield library provides locals with fun summer activities

BY ERICK PETERSON
Hermiston Herald

Thanks to a \$75,000 grant this summer, the Stanfield Public Library has been different than in years past.

"This money is letting us do quite a bit," library Director Cecili Longhorn said.

She added that in previous summers, the library has gotten through the summer with minimal activities and little help.

She said the library, at 180 W. Coe Ave., ordinarily gets by with a \$1,000 grant and some donations from the public. This money, she said, has funded a limited amount of events, including a summer reading contest.

With the larger grant from the Oregon Community Foundation, according to Longhorn, the library has been able to fund several activities, including bowling, water slides at the park, food decorating and sewing. It also has been able to hire a couple of part-time employees.

"There were a lot of things that we want in our community but didn't have the funding for," she said.



Erick Peterson/Hermiston Herald

Cecili Longhorn, Stanfield Public Library director, left, holds up the book "Wordy Birdy," on Monday, Aug. 8, 2022. The book will be read at next week's Family Fun Night.

SOME EVENTS STILL COMING

Though many of these activities have passed, some others remain on the horizon.

"There's still lots of fun to be had at the library," Longhorn said. "We really have a whirlwind coming."

She pulled out a copy of "Wordy Birdy," a book slated to be read at the next Family Fun Night, 6 p.m., Monday, Aug. 15.

The book is about a bird who gets into trouble because she talks a lot but does not listen.

"It's one of my favorites," the librarian said. "It's something that I can relate to, and the children seem to like it, too."

The first Family Night was Aug. 8, and they take place every Monday in August at the library. The event includes story time, a craft or activity

and a snack.

She said the Family Fun Nights are only the tip of the iceberg; there are other events taking place that have been made possible because of the additional grant funding.

Another planned event is Comic Craft Club meetings, which take place every Wednesday in August, 5 p.m. at the library. This is for children ages



Erick Peterson/Hermiston Herald

Taylor Carnine, 9, measures cloth to make an apron at the Stanfield Community Center on Monday, Aug. 8, 2022.

9-15 and includes a book, activity and meal.

Longhorn said she has received good feedback from the club, and she intends to continue club meetings into the school year.

"This club has taken off and is encouraging reading to kids who read these graphic novels like candy," she said.

These events, and others, give kids a good time, but they also energized the community, Longhorn said. Events involved local businesses and organizations.

Over at the Stanfield Community Center, Longhorn showed how the community is getting involved with kids

in library activities.

There, several children were putting together various crafts under the instruction of experienced crafters.

"I really like this," Taylor Carnine said as she was laying out fabric for an apron. "It's fun, and I'm making something really nice"

Other kids expressed the same feelings, as they, too, were busy on their own projects.

"This is something special," Longhorn said. "The kids come here, and they do a lot to create very positive memories"

More information about the library and coming events can be found at its website, cityof-stanfield.com/library.

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