

# Builder's approach makes housing affordable to more families

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buy in Banks because they could qualify for the \$75,000-\$85,000 properties.

Responding to councilors' concerns about changes in the proposal, city planner John Brosy said that any substantial changes would require the approval of the council. Among the concerns expressed were the cost of park maintenance to the city and the need for a traffic impact study. Stewart also expressed concern about potential liability in case of inadequate public notice.

In other business the council:

- Accepted the first reading of a resolution on funding for the city's slow sand filter;

- Noted that a tort claim had been filed against the city for an injury incurred at Sunset Park;

- Discussed a potential increase in the water system development charge;

- Accepted a resolution recognizing and expressing appreciation for the Friends of The Banks Library;

- Approved a three-year contract with Dennis R. Conner, C.P.A., for auditing services;

- Set a special meeting for Dec. 27 to swear in the new

mayor and councilors, and for an executive session to consider a grant application for a police officer and to allow the city attorney to answer council questions about the South Banks development.

## Ordinance aimed at controlling graffiti, defacement

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ordinance Monday night that is intended to help control graffiti and/or other types of property defacement. The ordinance defines graffiti and implements which may be used to deface property.

Some residents objected because they felt the lan-

guage was too imprecise, and could result in charges being filed against innocent people who had paint in an aerosol can or who carried a pocket knife.

City attorney Tom Kohl said that enforcement requires "prosecutorial discretion" of the police department,

that they must be able to prove "intent".

Chief Walters said the ordinance was no different from any other law. "We'd look like fools if we arrested anyone without probable cause," he added, "We won't arrest anyone for having a pocket knife unless there is reason to

think a crime has been committed."

The ordinance, which is in use in other Oregon cities, also spells out parental responsibility and civil liability.

Two public hearings will be held in January, on the 3rd and the 16th, city administrator Mike McAlvage told the council, for Community Development Block Grants.

The first hearing will review the program and explain what is eligible; the second will be for specific applications. They will both be at 7:00 p.m., prior to the regularly scheduled city council meetings.

## Stewart is not a CRG member

In response to rumors that she is a member of the Coalition for Responsible Growth, Banks Councilor Norma Stewart told *The INDEPENDENT* that she is not a member. The extent of her involvement, she explained, was to provide the organization with public records that they had requested.

In addition to president Jim Pursley, the group's other officers are secretary Janice Hays and treasurer Robin Whitcomb. None of the officers reside within Banks, but other members do live within the city, Pursley said. He also said that approximately 50 people made donations toward the cost of the appeal.



Builder Mel Aho, right, believes in affordable housing.

## Special district openings listed

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that will be open, the present officeholders and the length of each term:

**Vernonia School District**—Pos. 3, Don Dailey; Pos. 7 Debbie Johnston; both four-year terms.

**Banks School District**—Zone 3, Ann Statton; four-year term.

**Jewell School District**—Pos. 1, Eddie Miguez; Pos. 5, David Samuelson; both four-year terms.

**Vernonia Rural Fire District**—Pos. 2, Dan Fletcher; Pos. 3, Frazier Rohm; Pos. 4, Tim Bamburg; all four-year terms.

**Mist-Birkenfeld Rural Fire District**—Pos. 1, Jack Haslett; Pos. 2, Doug Grant; both four-year terms. Pos. 5, Ray Kyser; two-year term.

**Tri-City Rural Fire District**—Pos. 2, Robert Vandehey; Pos. 4, Henry Schmidlin; Pos. 5, Cameron Crop; all four-year terms.

**Elsie-Vinemaple Rural Fire District**—Pos. 1, George Foster; Pos. 4, Bill Fairchild; both four-year terms.

**Columbia Co. Emergency Communications District**—Zone 4, Norm Mueller, who has moved from the zone and will not be eligible for re-election; four-year term.

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