

ODDA study includes many potential improvements and changes

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city. Hunter also identified challenges that the community will face including the readiness for change in a community that had dramatically changed in the last ten years. According to Hunter, there are excellent opportunities for success in local businesses if excellent, personal service and unique quality merchandise are offered. Hunter said niche markets exist for convenience markets, restaurants such as a deli, yogurt shop or ethnic food, and bed and breakfast lodging. She concluded her presentation by outlining strategies for success including defining the community's image and establishing a clear market identity, aggres-

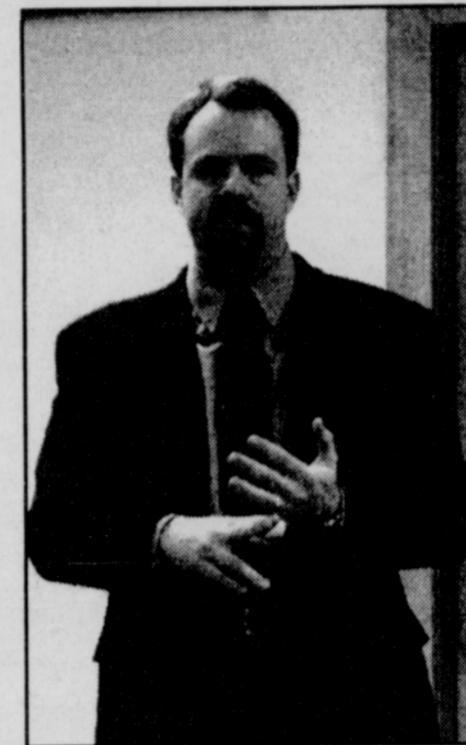
sively marketing the city, forming a business assistance team and developing local leadership.

Magnus Bernhardt, assisted by Jeff Johnson, both of AEI, presented drawings of what Banks could be like in the future. His work stresses the concepts of continuity, connectivity and community. Bernhardt showed the audience a map illustrating a continuous series of pathways surrounding and connecting centers of activity at the linear park and antique shop trailhead, Arbor Village, Sunset Park and a proposed community plaza.

Bernhardt also showed two drawings of a proposed town plaza on the site currently oc-

cupied by Cop's Towing, whose owner indicated to the team that his property would be available. The design would open up the area to allow a view out into the adjacent farmland. The plaza area would be an extension of Depot Street into a brick-paved, open area available for a variety of uses such as farmers' markets, concerts and seasonal events. The plaza would serve as a central hub for a variety of buildings including city hall, a community center and a mix of businesses. The goal of a plaza is to provide an inviting place for local residents to gather and for passing traffic to slow down, then stop and explore.

Johnson's drawings showed



Brad Sinn, Circuit Rider Project Manager for ODDA.

potential of the Antique Barn as a mixed use facility and trailhead. Using one of the options identified in the Sellers Road preliminary engineering study that moves the intersection of Sellers Road to the west, Johnson designed a fantastic community space where the inside of the building could house an information booth, café and mixed retail space, particularly for a bike or equestrian shop. A partially covered patio could allow for indoor/outdoor dining, and on the outside of the building there could be a horse corral and parking for cars, trucks and horse trailers.

Jeff Graves, of Serra Archi-

tecs, conducted a study of the local architectural style. According to Graves, city hall, the hardware store and particularly the tavern have a style that is "pure Oregon." He identified common features that can be used to create a theme including awnings, porches, high windows, and false-fronts. Graves went on to present drawings of specific projects that would enhance the appearance of buildings and create a unified look for the city. The comparatively low-cost projects include decks, window-trim, benches and lighting.

Graves concluded the evening's presentation by outlining a series of priority actions the team felt were important to help the city move on to the next step. In the next six months, the team proposed, the city should form a downtown development committee, reach-out to other successful communities, begin an annual downtown clean-up day and regular street sweeping, develop a Banks brochure, install entrance signs, and establish a business assistance team. The team also recommended that Banks identify and establish uniform design standards, set up a revolving loan/grant program for façade improvements, and market the town aggressively. The team's final report will be prepared in the next month.

Habitat for Humanity seeks family for second home

Columbia County Habitat for Humanity successfully completed its first house in 2001 and is looking forward to starting on a second home in 2002. Three informational meetings are scheduled on January 19 to explain the program and begin the process of finding a "partner family" that is looking for the opportunity to buy a decent, affordable home.

Criteria for home ownership with Habitat for Humanity is based on need, ability to pay and willingness to participate as a partner with Habitat. Additionally, applicants must live or work in Columbia County for one year.

Habitat for Humanity volunteers have planned meetings at the following locations through Columbia County on January 19:

10:00 a.m. - St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, SW High Street, Clatskanie.

1:00 p.m. - St. Mary's Catholic Church, Vernonia.

4:00 p.m. - Warren Baptist Church, 16799 Columbia River Hwy., Warren.

Applications, income requirement tables, informational brochures, and house plan information will be available for review at the meetings.

Applicants will be considered for a Habitat Home if cur-

rent housing is not adequate and if they are unable to obtain adequate housing through conventional means. Lack of adequate housing may include problems with the present structure (water, electrical, sewage service, heating or failure to meet city property maintenance standards). Consideration is also given to the number, ages and gender of children compared to the number of bedrooms in your home.

Once selected, the applicant becomes a "Partner Family" with Habitat for Humanity. The Partner may assist with "sweat equity" in the actual construction of the home or other activities in preparation for eventual home ownership. Families must complete 300 to 500 hours of sweat equity and up to 35-percent of the total hours can be contributed by friends and relatives.

For more information, including information on childcare or interpreters during the meetings, call 503-366-4595.

other information are available from the Oregon Secretary of State website <www.sos.state.or.us/elections/other.info/maps.html>

County Elections offices will be issuing new voter registration cards in January of 2002.

District changes on new website

Every decade the boundaries of Oregon's legislative districts are adjusted to equalize the distribution of population. The latest redistricting also changed the order of state House and Senate districts. Voters who want to know the number of their new state House or Senate District, or who is now representing them, may obtain the information from the Oregon League of Conservation Voters' website, <www.olcv.org/leglookup>

By entering a zip code, the new district number, legislator's name and contact information are available.

The new district boundaries apply for the 2002 elections and will remain in effect from now through 2011. Congressional districts have not yet been finalized.

Legislative district maps and

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