

**Business Notes**

**Few residents show interest in E. Bridge St. project**



Interested homeowners looked closely at maps of planned improvements along E. Bridge Street.

Only four homeowners attended an Open House on OA Hill Pedestrian/Bicycle improvements was held at Vernonia City Hall at 7:00 p.m. on August 29. City Administrator Robyn Bassett gave an overview explaining that, in most cases, homeowners would not be responsible for the cost of adding sidewalks and bike lanes on both sides of East Bridge Street from Texas to Riverside Dr. The City obtained a grant that will fund most, if not all, of the approximately 1/2 million dollars worth of improvements. Homeowners will be responsible for upkeep on the sidewalks, such as repairing cracks that may occur in the future.

Two engineers from the firm HLB & Associates were on hand with drawings of the im-

provements to discuss any concerns the public might bring to the open house. The four homeowners present asked questions regarding whether trees would be removed (depends where that are), about existing stairs (may need to be changed), whether retaining walls will be needed (small ones in some spots) and if there will still be utility poles (some utilities may be moved underground).

Bids will be requested next spring and the Oregon Department of Transportation must approve the plans. The work is scheduled for completion by June 30, 2006.

There will be a Public Hearing on the project, September 6 at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Room at City Hall.

**Small Business Fair provides a lot of information without charge**

The Oregon Small Business Fair, for small-business owners and those thinking about becoming small-business owners, will be held Saturday, September 17, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Portland Community College, S.E. Center, 2305 SE 82nd Avenue in Portland.

The free event, sponsored by local, state, and federal agencies and nonprofit organizations, offers the following 45-minute workshops and more, taught by agency and business experts, attorneys, and CPAs:

- Turning a dream into a reality
- Money...get it for your business
- What business is best for you
- The art of Selling

- The art of networking
- Record keeping
- Legal preventive medicine
- Obtaining and Protecting Your Business Name
- Licenses, taxes & regulations

- E-Commerce
- Business Plans
- The future of business
- Marketing Your Business
- How to advertise

For more information about the Oregon Small Business Fair, call 503-329-4260 or visit <[www.oregonbizfair.org](http://www.oregonbizfair.org)>.

All of SBA's programs and services are provided to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information on all of SBA's programs and services, visit our web site at <[www.sba.gov/or](http://www.sba.gov/or)>.

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\*If you live, work, worship, go to school, volunteer in Columbia County, or are an immediate family member of SHCFUCU member you are eligible for membership.

