OREGON OBSERVER

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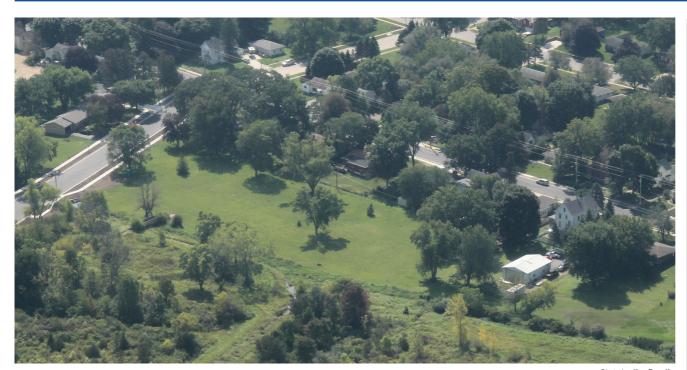


Photo by Jim Ferolie

In 2007, severe flooding led the Village of Oregon to buy six houses along Florida Avenue and shut down the street for good. Now there's hardly any evidence a street was ever there, in the clearing next to the drainage ditch.

After the flood

A decade later, fixes continue to hold

BILL LIVICK

Unified Newspaper Group

A heavy storm that hit the village in the early morning of July 10 dumped 4.6 inches of rain in a little over four hours.

It caused flooding on North Burr Oak Avenue and sewer backups in several homes.

But the damage would almost certainly have been more severe if not for measures the village took a decade earlier, in the wake of what many recall as the worst flood in Oregon's history.

The rain began to fall Saturday, Aug. 18, 2007, and by the next day the storm had deluged the village with almost 19 inches of water.

It forced the evacuation of seven families - five living on what was then Florida Avenue, one on North Burr Oak Avenue and one in the lower half of a duplex on Prairie View Street – and caused flooding in various parts of the community.

The catastrophic event didn't claim any lives. But it led village officials to vow to fix the problem.

Acting on a study of the village's stormwater management conductdecided to buy all five homes on Florida Avenue and one on North Trip on North Main Street and more Burr Oak – at a cost of \$1.1 million, than 1,700 linear feet of a 72-inch using county and state grants, stormwater utility funds and future developer fees, but no tax dollars - and town Oregon and eventually out of remove them from the Badfish Creek floodplain. They also eliminated as green space.



In 2007, severe flooding led the Village of Oregon to buy six houses along Florida Avenue and shut down the street for good. With cars unable to navigate the street, some people took creative ways to get around.

But moving the homes wouldn't to resolve because it took such a corrugated metal culvert that channels the creek east beneath downthe village.

"The flood of 2007 was proba-Florida Avenue and restored the area bly the worst we've ever had, and it was one of the most difficult things

prevent future flooding. So in the long time," said former public works spring of 2008, village officials director Mark Below, who led the ed by Ruekert and Mielke Inc., they also decided to spend \$2 million to department for 25 years and has lived in Oregon for more than 60 years.

It took the village more than two years to acquire and remove all six properties - a much shorter period than Village President Steve Staton initially had anticipated.

Village administrator Mike Gracz recalls the event and its aftermath

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Oregon School District

Managing its growth

OSD task force explores options for new schools, configurations

SCOTT DE LARUELLE Unified Newspaper Group

The Oregon School District has around 4,000 students, but by the time this year's kindergarteners graduate, that number is projected to have risen to around 6,000.

Facing this 50 percent increase by 2030, it's just a matter of time before the district must expand its footprint by adding new schools or expanding existing ones.

In February, the district created a growth task force to explore how to deal with the expected explosion of growth.

nine times so far, with a goal of making a recom- the next few months to mendation to the board determine those other two in February 2018 in three recommendations. areas: population projections, how those projec-facilities are required, I tions would affect current building and grade

Task force members

- · Jim Hagstrom, Town of Dunn
- Kerri Modjeski, Town of Oregon
- . Bob Eveland, Village of Brooklyn • Julie Eisele, Village of
- Oregon • Carlene Bechen, Town
- of Oregon · Tracey Leider, OEA President
- · Phil Van Kampen, Town of Oregon

configurations and where and when additional buildings would be needed.

It's so far established a solid projection of student enrollment increases based on research from The task force has met district consultant Mark Roffers, and it will take

"I don't think it's if new think it's a question of

Turn to **Growth**/Page 10

2017 tax rate approved

School board to vote on final 2017-18 about \$22 less than at last budget next month

SCOTT DE LARUELLE

Unified Newspaper Group

trickles in from the state data comes into the disand other sources, the trict, said business man-Oregon school board con- ager Andy Weiland who tinues to move closer to provided a "50,000-foot finalizing its budget for view" of the district budthis school year.

annual budget hearing and hearing that preceded the public meeting, district annual meeting. He said electors approved a mill with state funding and the rate of \$11.62 per \$1,000 of equalized assessed

value, or around \$2,324 on a \$200,000 home. That's year's mill rate of \$11.73.

School district property taxes are slightly more than half a home's overall property tax bill.

The mill rate could As more information drop as additional budget get and economic out-At Monday night's look during the budget

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