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07-05-2010 PRESS RELEASE--

Sequim Senior Activity Center land purchase fully funded by generous donors!



R. Leo Shipley, right, presents a check for \$218,542.81 to Sequim Senior Activity Center executive director Michael Smith on Friday July 2nd at the Center's well-attended Independence Day celebration. The Old Time Fiddlers provided entertainment and Jeremiah's BBQ catered the meal.

Mr. R. Leo Shipley's gift of \$218,542.81, the amount of SSAC's winning bid, secures 4.48 acre property as site for a new Center, debt free.

150 other donors, mostly SSAC members, who have given amounts ranging from \$1 to \$10,000, bring the total Capital Campaign to \$292,427 so far.

"I sent the cashier's check for the full purchase price to the State Dept. of Transportation just a few days ago," said Center Executive Director Michael Smith.

"This is wonderful to be so close to the interim goal of \$300,000 that we set in April to be able to buy the land. By giving the full amount of our winning bid, Mr. Shipley has made it possible for this land to be purchased with no monthly payments or interest to pay. It also enables us to have funds on hand for the next steps of the process. We are very grateful for Leo's generosity and the generosity of all of our donors."

Leo Shipley, 84, a life member of the Center, is a retired school teacher and developer, who owns and manages Baywood Village, a manufactured home community.

The 30-plus-year Sequim resident encouraged the 100 seniors gathered Friday at the Center's Independence Day Barbeque to "Think big and dream big, big, big!"

Center director Michael Smith said that now that the land is secured, the Capital Campaign will continue to raise funds for site development, architectural work, and the actual building of a new Center for Sequim area residents to enjoy.

The Center welcomes help from the community and will be seeking grants and donations from a variety of individuals, businesses, foundations, and government entities. Naming opportunities are being explored and will be announced when the project design is nearing completion.

Donations of all sizes are appreciated and can be brought to the center, mailed to PO Box 1827, Sequim, WA 98382, or can be made via credit card on the Center's secure website, www.sequimseniorcenter.org

BACKGROUND INFO FROM PREVIOUS PRESS RELEASES-----

Sequim Senior Activity Center wins bid for land for a new Center.

Winning bid of \$218,542.81 secures 4.48 acres of view property on the Discovery Trail near Washington Street/Simdars exit. This site was intended to be the Peninsula Safety Rest Area, but when those plans were cancelled, the property was declared surplus by the Dept. of Transportation and put up for sale in a sealed-bid auction on April 28th.

The winning bid was the average of what the volunteer board members and the executive director thought should be the bid amount. Minimum bid was \$206,000, and there were no other bids for this amazing piece of prime Sequim real estate.

The following info may help with questions that may come to mind:

Project DESIGN-- We have been researching what other new centers are doing to serve today's seniors and the baby boomers that are retiring. We have visited and are getting plans from other Centers. We will be asking for community input and working with a consultant to design the new SSAC building to meet today and tomorrow's needs. The Center will most likely be multi-storied and designed to take advantage of the view of Sequim and the Strait.

It will have an attractive covered portico for loading and unloading. We are looking at having a rooftop garden, solar panels, and other features similar to those used in the Holiday Inn Express. The interior will feature areas designed to promote health and longevity, life-long learning and fun.

We will leave room on the property for future expansion of the building.

--Project BUDGET-- We are not sure of future construction costs, but our preliminary estimate is that it will require an investment of between \$5 million and \$7.5 million to build a 20,000 square foot building and 140-space parking lot.

SALE of current property-- To allow for continuous operations of our valuable programs, this will not happen until a new Center is ready to move into. Proceeds from the sale will be used to pay towards any construction loan or mortgage that may exist. If building construction is fully funded by the community and grants, then the proceeds could be put into an endowment for future operations of SSAC.

TIME FRAME-- Our goal is to raise sufficient funds to begin construction within 5 or 6 years, and move in within 7 or 8 years.

FUNDING SOURCES-- We welcome help from the community and will be seeking grants and donations from a variety of individuals, businesses, foundations, and government entities. Naming opportunities are being explored and will be announced when the project design is nearing completion.

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WHY NOT USE CURRENT PROPERTY?--

Why not use the property we are on now, or why not use the parking lot property purchased in 2005? To meet future needs, we were advised that we would need about 3 acres as a minimum for an adequate building and parking lot. Our 921 E Hammond property is just over 1 acre, and our parking lot across the street is just 4/10ths of an acre.