

## **Transitional shelter communities**

A transitional shelter pilot project for up to 30 homeless veterans on county-owned land.





Planning continues for the <u>temporary, transitional shelter community pilot project</u> on a 1.5-acre site near the corner of 115<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Jennifer Street.

Here's a brief update on where we are and where we're going. If you have questions, suggestions or comments, please <u>email Board of County Commissioners Sr. Policy</u> <u>Advisor Emily Klepper</u> or call 503-742-5933.



Volunteers are sought to help build sleeping pods, like this one, which are being built on Clackamas County's Red Soils campus at 2051 Kaen Road in Oregon City throughout October.

*What's new* – We had dozens of volunteers this weekend make significant steps in building sleeping pods at the site. All five Board of Clackamas County Commissioners -- Jim Bernard, Ken

Humberston, Sonya Fischer, Paul Savas and Martha Schrader -- pitched in on Saturday in constructing the pods. Also on site during the weekend were Clackamas County Administrator Don Krupp, City of Oregon City Commissioners Nancy Ide and Brian Shaw, several Portland State University students and volunteers from throughout the community. All were extremely excited to not only be a part of the project, but to improve the lives of our homeless veterans.

Thanks to the work by the volunteers this past weekend, the sleeping pods went from flat frames to structures with floors and walls. Work will continue throughout the month.















We were also excited to have media coverage Saturday:

- Clackamas County starts framing shelters for veterans -- The Portland Tribune.
- Veterans Village aims to shelter at least 30 homeless vets KATU News
- People in Oregon City build homeless pods for vets -- KOIN News
- Volunteers help build shelters for homeless veterans -- KPTV News



*Volunteering* – The shelter site will have up to 30 sleeping pods. Pod construction runs from Wednesdays through Sundays on the county's Red Soils campus in Oregon City (2051 Kaen Road). We're still seeking volunteers to help build them. No experience is required and training will be provided onsite.

Volunteer construction work runs through the month of October on Wednesdays through Sundays. On weekends, we will have a morning and afternoon shift. On Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, shifts are available from noon to 5 p.m.

Please keep in mind we can accommodate a maximum of 15 volunteers per shift, so your desired shift on a particular day may not be available. We will, however, do our best to honor all volunteer requests.

Volunteers can sign up through the <u>City Repair volunteer registration page</u>.

*Land Use Approval* – The conditional use application for the transitional community has been submitted and a public hearing date has been set for 9:30 a.m. Nov. 30. Clackamas County Planning staff are reviewing the application and will submit a recommendation and staff report to the Hearings Officer and make it available to the public at least one week prior to the hearing.

*Site Preparation* – The Development Agency has a contract with Trench Line Excavation to bring waterlines to the site. This added infrastructure will make the site more usable for future industrial development, in addition to the residents who will live in this temporary community. The installation is tentatively scheduled from Oct. 5 to 27, and may require some night work. The Development Agency is working with neighboring businesses about maintaining operations and access during construction.

*Community Operations* – The site will include 15 to 30 sleeping pods and community restrooms, showers, cooking and eating facilities, and a communal room.

*Community Members* – Residents of this transitional community will be adult military veterans from Clackamas County who are homeless. They will be selected through referrals and screenings by county staff, veterans and social service agencies and support organizations.

The residents will be provided with health, counseling and other supportive services through the county, non-profits and other organizations to help them transition from this community to more permanent housing.

*Health, Safety and Mobility* – County staff conducted a <u>health and safety impact</u> <u>review</u> of the site. Security and safety are top priorities for the county, not just for the residents, but also associated staff and the general community.

While there is no direct access to public transportation from the site, plans are underway to provide a shuttle or other form of transportation to bus stops so these veterans can access training, counseling, shopping, medical facilities and other routine needs.

*Housing Affordability* – The County Commissioners have begun holding panel discussions to better understand the issue of housing affordability. The first meeting was held Sept. 20; with the next one scheduled for Oct. 25. These discussions offer information about current housing issues in our region, coalition building and partnerships, impacts and other strategic considerations.

*Contact us* – Please contact <u>Board of County Commissioners Sr. Policy Advisor Emily</u> <u>Klepper</u> or call 503-742-5933 if you would like to help with this project, have questions or concerns, or would like additional information.

You are receiving this email because you are a property owner in the vicinity of the transitional shelter community pilot project proposed near the corner of 115<sup>th</sup> and Jennifer, or have expressed an interest in the project. If you would like to be removed from this email list, please let us know.