

Union Street Community Center gets backing By Megen Wessel, Times Staff Writer Monday, July 08, 2002

The Union Street Community Center received \$50,000 in support from the city Monday night and will begin a fund-raising campaign soon.

The money from the city is part of the city's revolving loan assistance fund.

The three-floor, 7,800-square-foot center will be built on a piece of property across from Union Street United Methodist Church in Westminster.

The center will be a partnership between the city, the church and the nonprofit Westminster Community of Shalom, said the Rev. Dr. Howard Hinson, pastor of Union Street United Methodist Church in Westminster.

Members of the council applauded the project.

"This is just what the Pennsylvania Avenue project needs," said City Council President Damian Halstad.

The construction of the center is not scheduled to begin until next spring.

Meanwhile, the group will be looking to raise money toward the project, which will provide nonreligious-based programs for people of all ages.

"We think that if we start with the children, they can help us help the adults," Hinson said. "But this will truly be a community center for anyone who wants to use it."

Also, during the mayor and council's meeting Monday evening, city officials learned of the continued progress being made toward a partnership city program with Estonia.

Two city staff members, Thomas B. Beyard, director of planning and public works, and Ronald J. Schroers, supervisor of recreation and activities for the city, recently visited Estonia and reported their visit to the council Monday.

The mayor of the Estonian city, Paide, is expected to visit Westminster during Fallfest, Beyard said.

Also during the meeting, the mayor and council held a public hearing on a proposal to nearly double impact fees, called special capital benefit assessment fees, in Westminster.

No member of the public commented on the proposal, but the comment period will be open for 10 days. If adopted the proposal will go into effect on Sept. 1.

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