County plans for growth

Late requests by Ridgefield, La Center, council add to already complex process

By KAITLIN GILLESPIE
Columbian staff writer

RIDGEFIELD — On a sprawling piece of land just north of Ridgefield city limits, Mayor Ron Onslow envisions replacing hay and open space with single-family homes and playgrounds.

Last month, the city applied to incorporate a 107-acre property into the city’s urban growth boundary to support the vision city officials have for the developing community.

Pointing out details such as pocket parks, basketball courts and grassy areas for children to play, Onslow says the city is doing more than building homes — it’s building communities.

“We’re working to put in neighborhoods,” Onslow said.

The request, however, represents another puzzle piece in an already complex process that Clark County has been embroiled in since the summer of 2013 as it updates its 20-year comprehensive growth management plan. The plan acts as a guideline for future land use in response to job and population growth — and the clock is ticking to complete the plan, said Community Planning Director Oliver Orjako.

A final proposal by the county must be submitted to the state by June 30, 2016, and the county still has to complete a draft environmental impact statement and collect public comments.

A city can only apply to incorporate land from the county during updates to the county’s growth management plan. Though the county called for cities to submit their requests by July 31 of last year, Ridgefield submitted its request past that deadline, prompting the county to extend the application deadline for cities to March 2.

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